

THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

LORDSHIP.

POMP is but the embroidered cloak of power—the trappings adopted as the appropriate representative of authority—the palace of lordship—the throne upon which, and the canopy under which, dominion sits in state. The sign attracts our notice first—and through it we look at the thing signified. Through that window, pomp, looks forth the lust of rule—man's natural desire to exalt himself above his fellows, and to compel the will of all others to bow in acknowledgment of his own. This desire a state church not merely sanctions but consecrates. A national religion, founded on human enactments, pre-supposes authority, resident somewhere, to enact in Christ's church. And we care not how the vessel may be fashioned into which such authority is poured, whether it be hierarchical or presbyterian, the thing itself is the same—it is ecclesiastical lordship in the name of Christianity—a setting of man over man in matters of religious faith, and worship, and discipline—a constituting of an earthly tribunal for the decision of questions belonging only to conscience—an exaltation of worldly might in a kingdom exclusively spiritual. The burden of a state church is "You shall." This is in brief the interpretation of the whole theory—and it matters not whether one man says it, or five hundred—whether it be, W. Cantuar, or presbytery, or parliament. "You shall" is what is said, and said by mortals in reference to the affairs of another life.

If this be indeed Christianity, then Christianity is altogether a mistake. Here is a power set up which cannot vindicate itself, which cannot execute its own decrees—uttering commands which it has no appliances to enforce. It is just the old story of Phaeton in Apollo's chariot—presumption seizing the reins which it is incompetent to hold, and ignorant vanity converting what was intended for the world's light into a scorching and consuming plague. And it is curious how the impostor, conscious of his own imbecility, seeks to give effect to his lofty assumptions by the ghastliness of his grins, and the artificial attributes of power. Those "Courts Christian" which disgrace savage humanity, the dens and caverns into which ecclesiastical "you shall" drags its victims to devour them at leisure—what are they, but the gnashing of the teeth and the scowling of the brow, with which lordship in the church attempts to give force to commands to which it cannot ensure obedience? So, baronial possessions, privileges and titles, the union in so many instances of clerical and magistracy, impious pretences to official supremacy, and brazen vaunts of apostolical succession—what are they all but the high caps and imposing robes, the moustachios of burnt cork, and clattering shoes, with which imbecile dominion aims to swagger itself into the appearance of something majestic—an appearance which may justify its big, thundering, "you shall."

The inner man—that which remains of us when every successive layer of husk has been peeled off—the power to think, to judge, to love, to adore—did Christianity which comes hither to deal with that, intend to put it under authority to a set of garments or torturing irons? For what more is ecclesiastical lordship? Nothing but the truth which it wields can conquer thought, and truth can do it better without the "you shall" than with it. The authority to which the soul of man bows in willing submission, must be in the thing spoken—and where that fails, is it likely that the same thing spoken *ex cathedra* will avail to bend the will? Why then, the will in such case bows not to the truth, but to the chair—and is swayed by a senseless reverence begotten by gold, purple and fine linen, or by an unmanly fear excited by the dangle of a whip before the eyes, or the clank of iron upon the nerves of the ear. If Christianity, designed as it is to rule the inmost man, really proposes to do it, by delivering us up to a lordship of mere dress, titles, and power to inflict bodily injury, we cannot but think it a most unphilosophical and worthless thing, a degradation put upon our common nature, which it becomes us, in the name of that God who made us, to resent. Are we to fall prostrate before puppets of rags, and lest we should not pay willing homage to truth, shall we be enticed to do it by the fine buttons, or compelled to do it by the frightful fist, of some one stepping forward to be the truth's champion? "Give me your love," says Christianity, in tones of mild persuasion blended with authority—and out rushes ecclesiastical lordship, dressed up for the occasion, and showing his teeth growls out—"Hullo there! Now let us see whether you mean to set me at defiance too! Give Christianity what she bids you, or I'll let you see who's who."

There are not wanting men weak enough in the faith, to contend that obedience is due to this usurped authority, this dressed-up pretence, whatever it may choose to command. We leave such to pay their worship to the god which their own hands have fashioned, and their own fancy clothed. Others argue that the force of its "you shall" dwells in what may happen to follow. If it be "worship as I bid you," it may not be obeyed—if "give halfpence to

uphold my form of Christianity," it may not be gainsayed. We discern no essential difference. Ecclesiastical lordship commands in either case—commands too in virtue of authority which it pretends to have derived from religion, and which it exercises on behalf of religion. In either case it is intended to be a supplement to Christianity, to ensure the doing of something which truth tries to do, but, according to this champion, cannot—an addition of man's "shall" to God's "ought." Can the one give force to the other? In a kingdom wherein "ought" is appointed sole ruler, and sways the sceptre by divine right, can it be fitting to recognise the usurper "shall," and pay to the latter that which we are commanded to reserve for the former? If "ought" be sufficient, what need of "shall?" If not, obedience to "shall" is only a further outrage upon the rights of "ought." Does the Supreme employ man to secure for Himself the homage which his own mandate has failed to obtain, and after having spoken in vain through his truth, does he dress up bishops to speak for Him?

Answer Christianity, or rather the Master of Christianity! "The kings of the gentiles exercise lordship over them, and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger: and he that is chief as he that doth serve." This is said to the apostles, whose successors in a direct and unbroken line are "the right reverend fathers in God by divine permission" of our own day, who eke out their own pretensions with the sword of state, and sit in the senate with baronial titles. Shall we ring in their ears an exhortation penned of yore by one of their brethren? "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the episcopate thereof, not by constraint but willingly: not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." What says "my lord" of London to that? One more passage and we have done. "Call no man master on earth." This we presume is as applicable to the laity as to the clergy. We shall make bold to obey it, and in the spirit of true obedience, to pour upon ecclesiastical lordship in every shape, contempt and scorn. Its rags we will hold up to the light of heaven, that all men may see their course and rotten texture; and whenever we meet with its "you shall," mindful of the allegiance due to real authority, it will be our duty to reply "we won't."

THE CONSTITUTIONS AND CANONS ECCLESIASTICAL OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

(Continued from Vol. I. p. 545.)

XXXVIII. Revolters after subscription censured.

If any minister, after he hath once subscribed to the said three articles, shall omit to use the form of prayer, or any of the orders or ceremonies prescribed in the Communion Book, let him be suspended; and if after a month he do not reform and submit himself, let him be excommunicated; and then if he shall not submit himself within the space of another month, let him be deposed from the ministry.

XXXIX. Cautions for institution of ministers into benefices.

No bishop shall institute any to a benefice who hath been ordained by any other bishop, except he first show unto him his letters of orders, and bring him a sufficient testimony of his former good life and behaviour, if the bishop shall require it; and lastly, shall appear, on due examination, to be worthy of his ministry.

XL. An oath against simony at institution into benefices.

To avoid the detestable sin of simony, because buying and selling of spiritual and ecclesiastical functions, offices, promotions, dignities, and livings, is execrable before God; therefore the archbishop, and all and every bishop or bishops, or any other person or persons having authority to admit, institute, collate, install, or to confirm the election of any archbishop, bishop, or other person or persons, to any spiritual or ecclesiastical function, dignity, promotion, title, office, jurisdiction, place, or benefice with cure or without cure, or to any ecclesiastical living whatsoever, shall, before every such admission, institution, collation, installation, or confirmation of election, respectively minister to every person hereafter to be admitted, instituted, collated, installed, or confirmed in or to any archbishopric, bishopric, or other spiritual or ecclesiastical function, dignity, promotion, title, office, jurisdiction, place, or benefice with cure or without cure, or in or to any ecclesiastical living whatsoever, this oath, in manner and form following, the same to be taken by every one whom it concerneth in his own person, and not by a proctor: "I, N. N., do swear, that I have made no simoniacal payment, contract, or promise, directly or indirectly, by myself or by any other, to my knowledge, or with my consent, to any person or persons whatsoever, for or concerning the procuring and obtaining of this ecclesiastical dignity, place, preferment, office, or living (respectively and particularly naming the same whereunto he is to be admitted, instituted, collated, installed, or confirmed), nor will at any time hereafter perform or satisfy any such kind of payment, contract, or promise made by any other without my knowledge or consent: so help me God, through Jesus Christ.

XLI. Licenses for plurality of benefices limited, and residence enjoined.

No license or dispensation for the keeping of more benefices with cure than one, shall be granted to any but such only as shall be thought

very well worthy for his learning, and very well able and sufficient to discharge his duty; that is, who shall have taken the degree of a master of arts at the least in one of the universities of this realm, and be a public and sufficient preacher licensed. Provided always, that he be by a good and sufficient caution bound to make his personal residence in each his said benefices for some reasonable time in every year; and that the said benefices be not more than thirty miles distant asunder; and lastly, that he have under him in the benefice, where he doth not reside, a preacher lawfully allowed, that is able sufficiently to teach and instruct the people.

XLII. Residence of deans in their churches.

Every dean, master, or warden, or chief governor of any cathedral or collegiate church, shall be resident in his said cathedral or collegiate church fourscore and ten days *conjunctim* or *divisim* in every year at the least, and then shall continue there in preaching the word of God, and keeping good hospitality, except he shall be otherwise let with weighty and urgent causes, to be approved by the bishop of the diocese, or in any other lawful sort dispensed with. And when he is present, he, with the rest of the canons or prebendaries resident, shall take special care that the statutes and laudable customs of their church (not being contrary to the word of God, or prerogative royal), the statutes of this realm being in force concerning ecclesiastical order, and all other constitutions now set forth and confirmed by his Majesty's authority, and such as shall be lawfully enjoined by the bishop of the diocese in his visitation, according to the statutes and customs of the same church, or the ecclesiastical laws of this realm, be diligently observed; and that the petty canons, vicars choral, and other ministers of their church, be urged to the study of the holy scriptures; and every one of them to have the New Testament not only in English, but also in Latin.

XLIII. Deans and prebendaries to preach during their residence.

The dean, master, warden, or chief governor, prebendaries, and canons in every cathedral and collegiate church, shall not only preach there in their own persons so often as they are bound by law, statute, ordinance, or custom, but shall likewise preach in other churches of the same diocese where they are resident, and especially in those places whence they or their church receive any yearly rents or profits. And in case they themselves be sick, or lawfully absent, they shall substitute such licensed preachers to supply their turns, as by the bishop of the diocese shall be thought meet to preach in cathedral churches. And if any otherwise neglect or omit to supply his course, as is aforesaid, the offender shall be punished by the bishop, or by him or them to whom the jurisdiction of that church appertaineth, according to the quality of the offence.

On Friday evening summonses for non-payment of church rates, in the parish of St Martin, Leicester, taken out by Richard Frederic Eames, hatter, East gates, and John Sarson, grocer, Hotel street, churchwardens of the above parish, were served upon thirteen parishioners.

On Friday last the rector of Keighley had four more poor fellows up before the magistrates, at Bingley Court house, for nonpayment of Easter dues. Mr Richardson, of Leeds, attended on behalf of the defendants, but his opinions were overruled by the magistrates, and the poor men had to pay 10s. each; three of them paid the money on the spot.

A vestry meeting was held at Tiverton on Thursday, to take into consideration a requisition to the churchwardens, requesting them to impose a penny rate for repair of the organ. An adjournment took place to the Guildhall, but the attendance was so large that not above one-half could be accommodated, and after some consultation a re-adjournment took place to the old church. The Rev. J. D. Lloyd, the rector, took the chair, and called on any one of the requisitionists to come forward and state their views, when Mr Pearson said that some time since he had endeavoured to get up a subscription to repair the organ, but could not get above 35l., and he therefore proposed that a rate be made. Captain Hodges said that as one of the requisitionists, he begged leave to second it without making any remarks on the merits of the question. Mr Haydon stated many statistical facts to prove the very great hardship which the rate would inflict on the agriculturists and the large payers, and he moved as an amendment, that no further notice should be taken of the requisition, which was seconded by Mr Cooke. J. Heathcoat, Esq., M.P., hoped the original motion would be withdrawn, as the rate, if made, would no doubt be appealed against, and would of necessity be quashed. William Hole, Esq., also addressed the meeting, when Captain Hodges withdrew his motion; and thanks being voted to the chairman, the meeting broke up. This was the largest vestry ever seen in Tiverton, and there were about twelve to one against the rate.

It is stated that the gentleman who has to raise the quota of the Bradford church rate for Bowling has been enabled to raise nearly the whole of it, and hopes to succeed in getting the remainder without much trouble. He has, however, taken the course of begging for it as a voluntary subscription from those who are able and willing to pay, rather than adopt the compulsory method which has been employed in Bradford.—*Leeds Mercury*.

A dissenting minister, known to us, called the other day at the premises in the City opened during the inclemency of the season as a temporary refuge for the destitute and houseless poor. On seeing a poor boy whose intelligent countenance attracted his attention, he asked him his name. "Jem Christy." "Who gave you that name?" The prompt reply was—"My godfathers and godmothers in my baptism, wherein I was made a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven." "And pray what is your employment—how do you get your living?" The boy hung down his head: at length, as if half-ashamed, he answered—"I am a prig, Sir: I lives by priggging whatever I can get."—*Cheltenham Free Press*.

At the Town hall, Brighton, on Monday week, Mr Bennett, solicitor, applied to the magistrates for a summons against the Rev. J. M. Wagner, the vicar of Brighton. For some time past a very ill feeling has existed in the town against certain parties for stopping St Peter's clock, occasioned by a dispute respecting the churchwarden's accounts, and the making of a new church rate. On the Saturday, as the vicar was proceeding on horseback up North street, Brighton, two little boys, about eight years of age, called out "Who stopped the clock?" This

so incensed Mr Wagner that he dismounted, and gave a man a penny to hold his horse, whilst he pursued the young urchins: they, fearing his violence, rushed into their houses, but he still followed one, who succeeded in bolting himself in an inner room, and having refused admission to the vicar, he broke open the door, and severely horse-whipped the little fellow. A mob soon collected, and would have inflicted summary punishment on the reverend gentleman, had he not speedily mounted his horse and escaped. The above facts having been sworn to, the magistrates immediately granted a summons. The magistrates have since fined this apostle of peace 40s.

At a convocation held in Oxford on Thursday, the Rev. James Garbett was unanimously elected professor of poetry, in the room of the Rev. John Keble.

In the Arches court on Saturday last, the case of *Burder v. Langley*, which is a proceeding against the Rev. Mr Langley, for brawling in the parish church of Wheatley, Oxford, came on for hearing. On the last court day, the defendant gave in a defensive allegation, the admission of which was now opposed by Drs Phillimore, senior and junior, as offering no real grounds of defence to the articles exhibited against the Rev. Mr Langley. The defendant supported the defensive allegation in person, and complained that he was not allowed by the court to state facts and circumstances he deemed of importance to his defence. The Court several times stopped the defendant, as he was introducing irrelevant matters affecting parties not before it, and held that the defensive allegation was inadmissible, and therefore rejected it. The court ordered the cause to be concluded, and publication to take place. The defendant alleged an appeal, but the learned judge cited the act of parliament, and decided that no appeal on an interlocutory decree could exist without his (the judge's) permission; and he did not consider this a case in which he ought to be called upon to grant it.

On the same day the case of *Sanders v Head* was heard. In this case the office of the judge has been promoted by Mr Sanders against the Rev. H. E. Head, for publishing a letter in the *Western Times*, in which, as alleged, there are expressions derogatory to the prayer book. The proceedings were instituted under the Ecclesiastical Discipline Bill. The rev. gentleman opposed under protest, and pleaded that under the act named the court had no jurisdiction. The Queen's Advocate and Dr Harding were heard in support of the protest, and Drs Addams and Robinson *contra*. The court considering it had jurisdiction, overruled the protest, and assigned the defendant to appear absolutely. An appeal was notified, but opposed. The court granted the request, and ordered it to be presented by the by-day.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CHURCH RATE FALLACIES.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—My conscience, as yourself and some of your readers may know, has not allowed me to side with those who refuse to pay church rates because they object to church establishments. I have always thought that the objectors had misinformed consciences, but never held the shallow fallacy which you have so well exposed in last Wednesday's *Nonconformist*—"It is the law, therefore conscience should yield." On the contrary, I have always held that conscience should never yield, and of course agree with you that "the duty of submission, therefore, is a matter for individual determination." This seems to be only the plain dictate of reason, admitting that there is a God and that man is responsible to him. All I have contended for is, that conscience is misinformed whenever it "determines" disobedience to a law merely because the law is bad. Its badness proves only, as I think, that its enactment was against "the will of God," not that obedience to it is against that will. I think reason and scripture dictate that the subject's duty is to obey all the laws of his country, good or bad, except when it is the will or permission of God that he should disobey; and, that this will or permission does not follow from the fact that the law itself is opposed to His will, but must be otherwise "collected."

This brings me to the business of this letter, which is to contest your proposition that "nonconformity to a bad law is no sin;" which appears to me to be as great a fallacy as the one you have so sufficiently refuted. Where is the man who, in some or other of the turns of life, is not practically submissive to some law that he would not have made; that is, some law touching his profession or his conduct, the living or the dead, which he thinks ought not to be? Mark! I do not say the subject is not to judge of every human law whether the divine law permits him to obey it. But what I say is this—if men may rightly disobey laws because they deem them to be bad laws, there is and can be, in the nature of finite things, no security that the best government shall not be made inefficient; for your proposition, of course, means that the ruler should give way to conscience. If you do not mean this, your reasoning, as it appears to me, comes to nothing, for every body admits that rulers ought not to make bad laws—laws not conducive to the public welfare. You must mean, then, that when a law is conscientiously objected to, it should not be enforced, or your denouncement of forcing conscience comes to nothing. But this would make obedience optional, and no government could assure itself of carrying any measure. It is true that, thus reasoning, you are inconsistent; for, if subjects should disobey all laws they deem bad, rulers should endeavour to enact all laws they deem good; rulers being, no less than subjects, bound to obey conscience as the highest law. But the fact, in my humble opinion, is that neither proposition is true. Rulers must violate what is absolutely right (I cannot but think) if, under any view or endeavour, they depart from what is "just and equal;" and subjects must be wrong, however unequal the law, if they disobey it merely because it is so, and without clear evidence that to disobey it will be to disobey God, as when the magistrates commanded the apostles not to preach, when God commanded otherwise. The apostles in no case refused obedience to civil magistrates upon the ground that the law or requirement was simply bad, and never but on the independent ground that God had forbidden or precluded the obedience. If I am wrong it is for those who contend otherwise to prove it. The burden of proof lies with them, and I challenge it. To tell me that church taxes should not be levied is, as I have aimed to show, to tell me nothing to the purpose. I fully admit it, but to be justified in the court of my own conscience in refusing to pay them, I require as a Christian, not to see that the law which levies is bad, but, at the very least, that the law of God forbids subjects to pay taxes levied for bad objects. But, seeing this, I should see that government had no foundation, for it could have none; and then what should be done? Vice and power would have no check, virtue and weakness no defence.

The passage from Paley, to which you refer, has no just application, it appears to me, except where the government is not representative. In such case, the people owe no allegiance except for peace and conscience sake, regarding the general weal rather than private interests. As soon, therefore, as they can affirm the rule to have ceased with less public inconvenience, as Paley intimates, than attends its maintenance, they may do so. They are

then the "Cæsar." But in this country the "Cæsar," in part, at least, is the parliament, and to resist this would be faction. It utters (ostensibly) the popular will, and every change demanded by popular opinion will necessarily be effected as soon as it should be—a full representation being assumed. This may prove the desirableness of "complete suffrage," but entirely disproves the moral propriety of any resistance to its laws as for the public good. Under the fullest representation there would be individual objectors; but the government would be morally right, as all governments in like case are morally right, in over-bearing conscience when it resisted its will; and the subject would be morally right in refusing obedience, notwithstanding, in any case in which he deemed himself incapable of obeying the ruler without disobeying God.

Church establishments, however good their object or amiable many of their friends, are an inimitable tyranny. The people must carry them, with all the burdens that pertain to them as public institutions, in some form or other, as long as they exist, and dissenters equally with others. Relief can come only by dissolution—the separation, legislatively, of the church established from the state by which it is established.

At the risk of seeming oracular and provoking anew the over-bearing reflections on my understanding, consistency, sincerity, and courage, to which I have been exposed from some quarters, because of my earnest, published, and reiterated protest against the conscience-plea on church or other taxes, I warn you and all the friends of our hallowed "voluntary principle," to be beguiled no longer by the fallacy that a law wrong to be enacted, is therefore wrong to be obeyed. A great principle is at stake in such a proposition (and I never met with any writer yet who seemed to me to understand in general what is meant by principle better than yourself). I trust it will never come to pass that the people, freed some day from the trammels of class legislation, shall be found with this proposition as their adopted axiom. If it should be so, worse chains await them than those that gail them now—worse in the degree that the reign of a fitful maniac would be more terrible than that of a mere despot, however stern.

You have lately, with all the right feeling of a high and honourable mind, well exposed the fallacy of "compensation from the landowners;" and, as you warned its abettors of the consequences of their doctrine, so I warn, that disgrace to ourselves, disrepute for our principles, and confusion to society, would result from a general acting upon the principle that a law wrong to be enacted, is, therefore, wrong to be obeyed.

With cordial sympathy with your views in general, and with sincere respect,
I am, sir, yours truly,
EDWARD SWAINE
London, Jan. 29, 1842.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—In your last week's comments upon the movements of the "Leeds Short-time committee" you say, "Feargus O'Connor may talk as he will about Sir Robert Peel's heart—we say the movement is originated by Tories, will be worked by Tories and the Times, and is designed to subserve Tory purposes."

From this it is apparent that you surmise Mr O'Connor as having a controlling influence over a movement "designed to subserve Tory purposes," and therefore as being, thus far, associated with the Tories.

I hesitate not to affirm that this your imagining has no foundation in truth. So far from Mr O'Connor being connected with the "movement" of the "Short-time committee," I have personally heard that gentleman declare his belief that their efforts on the occasion adverted to was so much misapplication of energy, from which no real good could be possibly anticipated.

I would further remind you that it was the deputation, and not Mr O'Connor, who declared Sir Robert Peel's possession of "a heart"—an announcement at which Mr O'Connor smiled.

It is presumed that you associated Mr O'Connor with the Short-time committee's "movement," from perceiving the name of the publisher of his paper—the *Northern Star*—as that of one of the deputation. But then, it should be remembered that the publisher may, as an individual, be sometimes influenced by different feelings from those of the proprietor of a journal.* For instance, Mr Hobson, the publisher of the *Northern Star*, is a socialist, the futility of whose schemes has been frequently publicly repudiated by Mr O'Connor.

Assured of your anxiety to deal justly by all men, I confidently rely upon the immediate correction of an error inadvertently set forth by you.

Sincerely appreciating alike the manly tone, spirit, and utility of your paper—whose articles are uniformly pregnant with the principles, and evidence a vigour of genius—for "the right"—such as was exhibited of old by that sterling nonconformist, John Milton,

I am, sir, yours respectfully,
A CHARTIST.
1, Shoe lane, Fleet street, Jan. 30th.

* We gathered our notion that Mr Feargus O'Connor was associated with the movement from seeing a flaming "leader" upon it in the *Northern Star*.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR—I beg to express my sincere thanks to you for the very able manner in which, as a public journalist, you have advocated the "people's cause" since the commencement of your career; and also for the precedence which in that capacity you have taken in speaking plain, wholesome, and unvarnished truths, heedless alike of names, party, or sects. I hold that to pursue such a line of conduct, the editor of a public journal, let his political sentiments be what they may, is deserving of the highest respect from all classes of the community, and of the liveliest gratitude from every lover of truth, and every good Christian. You are placed in a position at once noble, patriotic, and highly responsible. I trust, Sir, that you will continue to discharge your important duties as you have hitherto done; and your reward, which I am sure you will consider ample, shall not tarry, but will ere long result in the contentment, prosperity, and freedom of the people of England.

I am truly happy to find (as partially the fruit of your efforts) that the simple declaration upon the suffrage, by Mr Joseph Sturge, stands alone and unrivaled in the field; and I hope it may continue to do so, and that all classes of reformers, from the chartist to the moderate whig, will rally round it as the very centre of their hopes.

I believe public opinion is in favour of it to a much greater extent than we are apt generally to imagine, and that they are waiting in suspense, and even with anxiety, for an opportunity of expressing their sentiments by affixing their signatures. I think certainly that no time should be lost, there is a wide field for exertion; and I think, Sir, that your time would not be uselessly employed in endeavouring to concentrate all the energy, talents, and means of all reformers, and even of the League itself, in this one object. The people are looking with much more interest and anxiety to J. Sturge, Esq., than to the Anti-corn-law League, and they are right in so doing; for they may be assured that corn law repeal will never precede complete suffrage. A society in connection with J. Sturge's declaration might do much to organize and inform the people, to go through every constituency in the kingdom, to try their strength and obtain signatures; then to look out for suitable men, and sufficient, to represent the suffrage question in parliament; and then at once, altogether and without ceasing, to petition the Queen to dissolve parliament immediately. Sincerely thanking you for past efforts in the cause of truth, and wishing you God speed. I remain yours,
H. HATCH.
Oxford, Jan. 17, 1842.

GENERAL POLITICS.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.

The Paris papers of Wednesday are principally occupied with the debate on Spanish affairs in the Chamber of Deputies on Tuesday. The papers of Thursday refer chiefly to the debate on the census (an incident of the discussion of the address) in the Chamber of Deputies on Wednesday. Those of Friday contain the details of the debate in the Chamber of Deputies on the preceding day on the census. It appears to have attracted no attention out of doors.

In the Chamber of Deputies on Friday an incident occurred in the course of the resumed debate on the address which led to a most violent altercation between ministers and the opposition. The discussion of the 9th paragraph of the address, which referred to the machinations and attempts of the disaffected, had proceeded for some time, and with much warmth, when M. Isambert rose and accused government of illegal means to bring about the conviction of political prisoners. The learned deputy (who is one of the counsellors of the court of Cassation) stated, that "among the documents laid before that court relating to the late trials at Riom of the parties accused of riotous opposition to the census, was a letter (left no doubt by mistake among those papers) from the Attorney-General at Riom to the keeper of the seals, in which he gave his opinion that if the trials of those persons were pressed, the accused would be acquitted by the jury then on the panel;" but that "if the trials were postponed to the January assizes, measures could be so taken, by arranging the jury list, that acquittal would be next to impossible."

SPAIN.

Correspondence from Madrid of the 20th ult. states, that the Chamber of Deputies appeared to be more divided than ever; but the general opinion entertained was, that the ministry would be left in a minority. During its sitting on the 20th, the Senate continued a debate on its internal regulations. It was finally decided, that the following day a deputation should proceed to the Regent's palace, to present the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

Private correspondence from Madrid, dated the 21st ult., states that the debate in the Chamber of Deputies on that day had excited much interest, from the observations of M. Olozaga, who stated in reply to the minister of war, that the government ought to confine itself to its defence, and not make an unjust attack upon others. It was the general opinion at Madrid that the ministry would be either compelled to resign or to dissolve the chamber.

Private correspondence from Madrid, dated the 22d ult., states that the debate in the Cortes on the address was proceeding with much spirit; but the reply of the President of the Council, M. Gonzales, was considered an energetic and satisfactory reply to the various charges made against the government by the opposition.

AMERICA.

The following is an epitome of the whole population of the states and territories of the United States, exhibiting the general aggregate amount of each description of persons by classes.

FREE WHITE PERSONS.	
Males	7,249,266
Females	6,939,842
Total	14,189,108
FREE COLOURED PERSONS.	
Males	186,467
Females	199,778
Total	386,245
SLAVES.	
Males	1,246,408
Females	1,240,805
Total	2,487,213
Total aggregate	17,062,566

THE LEVANT.

The Levant mail brings intelligence from Constantinople to the 8th and from Alexandria to the 6th January. The most important fact is the offer of the Turkish authorities to establish district councils in the Lebanon, for local self-government and assessment of tribute; but it is feared that the provincial rulers are not fit men to carry out such a measure.

The mail also brings the text of the treaty concluded between the Shah of Persia and Sir John M'Neill. It provides for the reciprocal admission of each other country's goods and manufactures of every description, upon the payment in one sum, "once for all," of the customs duties exacted from the most favoured European nations; and the mutual cession to the subjects of either country of the privileges of the most favoured nation. Two British commercial agents are to reside in Persia, in the capital and at Tabriz, besides one at Bushire; and commercial agents of Persia are to reside at London and Bombay.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

A public meeting of the inhabitants of West Hackney and Stoke Newington was held on Monday week, at the British school rooms, Kingsland road, to take into consideration the propriety of petitioning the legislature for the total and immediate repeal of the "iniquitous" corn and provision laws. The spacious rooms were crowded to excess, and numbers went away unable to obtain admittance. It was by far the largest and most influential meeting held in that neighbourhood for a long time past. Letters were read from Sir W. Clay, M.P., Colonel Fox, M.P., Mr Wakley, M.P., Dr Pye Smith, the Rev. Edward Miall, the Rev. Clement Dukes, the Rev. John Cox, and other gentle-

men, regretting their unavoidable absence. Amongst the gentlemen on the platform were Dr Bowring, M.P. Colonel Thompson, P. A. Taylor, junior, Esq., &c. Mr Scoble was called to the chair, and the resolutions and petition were unanimously agreed to.

A special general court of the corporation of the school for the Indigent Blind was held on Monday week, at the London tavern, T. W. Meller, Esq., in the chair. From the report it appeared that the asylum was established in the year 1799, for the purpose of instructing the indigent blind in a trade by which they might be enabled to provide for their future subsistence. Religious instruction was given by means of books in raised or embossed letters, and the whole of the New Testament had been printed in that manner for their use. During a period of forty years, 278 persons had been returned to their families able to earn, according to their several abilities, from 6s. to 17. 8s. per week. The number of pupils had increased to 70 males, and 72 females. A manufactory had been established, where the articles made last year entirely by the hands of the blind persons were sold for 1,7437. 11s. 8d. The society's receipts in subscriptions, money received for the goods sold, &c., was 8,3887. 18s. 5d., and the balance at the bankers from the last year made a sum of 10,3057. 0s. 6d. The disbursements left a balance of 2,2417. 12s. 2d. in favour of the society. The election of eight males and five females as pupils in the asylum was then proceeded with, and terminated at three o'clock in the afternoon.

On Monday week the annual general meeting of the members of the London Orphan asylum was held at the London tavern, Bishopsgate street, Mr Alderman Thompson in the chair. The Rev. Dr Reed, one of the honorary secretaries, read the report. It stated the number of orphans in the asylum at Clapton to have been, at the period of the last anniversary, 350; 60 had been since admitted by election, and 53 had left, making the present number 357, which would be increased by the election that day to 382. The total number of orphans relieved since the establishment of the institution, was 1,304. The legacies during the past year had been unusually large and numerous, amounting in all to about 7007. The income amounted to 9,9567. 17s. 6d., which was exceeded by the expenditure in the sum of 4497. 14s. 5d. The children under the protection of the society were in good health, and very favourable accounts had been received from those who had obtained situations. The report having been adopted, and the officers elected, the election of 25 orphans as inmates of the asylum, from a list of 143 candidates, commenced. The meeting separated at three o'clock.

On Thursday afternoon a meeting of merchants, landowners, and others interested in the prosperity of the colony of the Cape of Good Hope took place at the London tavern, Bishopsgate street, for the purpose of adopting measures to prevent that colony from being overlooked in any government scheme of emigration. The meeting was numerously attended, and amongst the gentlemen present were Mr Bagshaw, Mr Burnie (chairman of the Van Dieman's Land company), Mr Borradaile, and several other eminent merchants.

Yesterday week, on occasion of the royal christening, there was a pretty general suspension of business in the City and suburbs. Most of those establishments which employ large numbers of persons gave a holiday. Many of the minor trading and manufacturing concerns, together with numerous shops, were not opened at all; and, as the day advanced, more were closed. Several of the public companies and corporate bodies celebrated the day by a feast. The illuminations, although pretty numerous, were not so general as was anticipated. Amongst the most splendid displays at the West end of town, were the club houses, the theatres, and shops and private houses in St James's street, Pall mall, Carlton gardens, Regent street, Oxford street, Wigmore street, Cavendish square, New Bond street, Conduit street, Great Marlborough street, Old Bond street, Picadilly, Jermyn street, Coventry street, and the Strand.

The matter of Mr Hitchcock's bankruptcy was resumed on Wednesday last, before Mr Commissioner Holroyd. With regard to the imputation of Messrs Cook and Gladstone in the bankrupt's practices, Mr Humphrey showed that, instead of colleagueing with him, Messrs Cook and Gladstone had been the first to strike the docket of bankruptcy against him, and it was they who first discovered the concealment of his goods. All along they believed the bankrupt to be, as he represented himself, solvent. The statement that they had received goods from Mr Hitchcock by the "back door," was shown to be nothing "secret," as all their goods always came in there. Mr Gladstone also utterly denied any clandestine dealing. The further hearing of the case was adjourned to this day.

The plinth has just been finished on which the pedestal is to be erected in Trafalgar square, on which the statue of the late Admiral Nelson is to stand, and attracts much notice. The work will not be finished in time to have the monument erected on the 20th October, the day when the signal victory was obtained, but probably will be ready by October twelvemonth.

The Bude light was tried for the first time as a means of street illumination on Monday week, at the long crossing where Waterloo place joins Pall mall, and opposite to the Duke of York's column. Heretofore this crossing has been lighted by a branch of three gas lamps, situated in the centre of the roadway, which were some time since removed for the purpose of trying this experiment. This Bude light is stationed at the summit of the column previously surmounted by the three gas lamps, and is so regulated as very considerably to subdue that intensity which characterises the Bude light where such precautionary regulation is not adopted. It very powerfully lighted the extensive space constituting the end of Waterloo place and the opening at Pall mall, and also in front of the Athenæum club house; and the gas lamps along the pavements looked, in comparison, as diminished as do the oil lamps when placed beside the present gas burners.

Thirty-three tons of sugar, made from potatoes, were lately seized in some premises in Prince's-square, St. George's in the East, where more than twenty men were at work in the manufacture of that article, which is sold by the grocers with a mixture of the East India produce. All the men pretended extreme ignorance as to whom was their employer.

PROVINCIAL.

ANTI-CORN LAW MEETING AT BIRMINGHAM.

On Wednesday last a meeting of the merchants and manufacturers of Birmingham, and of deputies from the surrounding district, was held, for the purpose of conferring, and collecting information relative to the state of the district. The meeting was well attended, and delegates from Wolverhampton, Coventry, Coalbrook Dale, Dudley, Kidderminster, West Bromwich, Bilston, Walsall, Stourbridge, and Darlaston, were present. William Scholefield, Esq., president of the Birmingham Anti-corn-law Association, took the chair, and having briefly stated the nature of the meeting, said that letters from C. E. Villiers, Esq., M.P.; G. F. Muntz, Esq., M.P.; Colonel Thompson; and the mayor of Kidderminster, had been received, stating their inability to attend from various causes.

JOSHUA SCHOLEFIELD, Esq., M.P. moved the first resolution, and stated his belief that, until the people were better represented in the Commons' house of parliament, the present system of class legislation would continue, and so long must the industrious class suffer themselves to be deprived of their rights and liberties. After a brief address, he moved,—

"That, in the opinion of this meeting, every individual has a natural and inalienable right to the free exercise of his own talents and industry, and the sole possession and enjoyment of their production; that, in a free state, the laws should be made for the equal benefit of all, and that monopoly, which takes from the many, in order to confer privileges on the few, is a violation of the two great principles, national and social, on which society exists."

W. BOULTREE, Esq., seconded the resolution, and said that he had statistical information relative to the town of Birmingham to lay before the meeting of a very important character; but owing to the extreme length and the minute details which it embraced, he should only present an abstract of the more important statements:—Smith's vices in 1826, cost 32s. 8d. per cwt.; in 1829, 24s. 6d. per cwt.; and now the price is reduced to 21s. Chains, that in 1826 were 19s. 6d. per cwt., are now 10s.; halter-chains, which were then 9s. 6d., are now 5s. 3d.; iron candlesticks are reduced from 2s. 7d. to 1s. 4d.; common tinned horse-bits, which were formerly 1s. 1d. are now reduced to 11d. Thirty families, taken consecutively, containing 144 individuals on an average, formerly receiving 22s. per week, now receive only 5s. 11d., which, deducting rent, averaging 2s. 1d. each family, left only 3s. 10d. per family, or 9d. each individual for purchasing the means of subsistence. The concurrent testimony of pawnbrokers was, that the number of pledges was reduced one-half; the articles now offered are generally of very small value, and a great many, in fact, are quite unsaleable, such as pawnbrokers could not advance anything whatever upon. A communication from workmen in the fancy steel toy trade stated, that the rate of wages is reduced one-half in their trade; that in 1815, eighty hands were employed in the manufactory to which they belong, and forty outworkers were also employed, making 120 persons; and that now thirty are employed in the manufactory and ten out, making only forty instead of one hundred and twenty as before. They also report that there exists a great tendency to crime from want of employment, and the consequent starvation and misery it occasions. In reference to the brass-foundry trade, the workmen state that since 1812 wages have been reduced from one-half to two-thirds. Articles in their trade, for which 15s. were paid in 1812, are now made for 5s., and there is now the same amount of work for 5s. as formerly for 15s. A letter from a master brass-founder said that the trade was good, and men were fully employed, at good wages, from 1810 to 1815. The letter also stated that an immense business was then carried on with Germany and Prussia; but that now we cannot compete with the Germans in price, although our own prices have been reduced one-half. Paper No. 5, from workmen in the lamp manufacture, stated that, in 1815, before the corn law was passed, men earned good wages, and that now the wages are reduced two-thirds. In their manufactory formerly 78 persons were fully employed, now 36 only are employed, and those only work 44 days per week. Their trade has very much fallen off since. The silver workers state that, in 1835, the men in their trade were fully employed, and were making over-time. Now they are only employed about three, or not more than four, days a week. These parties also stated that their wages have been reduced very much in the last six years. Paper No. 9, from the sawyers and wood turners, stated that wages have very much declined in their trade. Six years ago the price paid for a certain kind of work was 10s. per gross; now the same kind of work is done for 3s. 6d. per gross. Paper No. 10, from the journeymen tin-plate workers, represented the reduction of men employed as one-third, and that the remainder are only partially employed. Paper No. 11, from journeymen screw-makers, stated that in 1835 and 1836 the price paid for making some kinds of articles was 1s. 9d., and that now the same articles are made for 9d.; and that, in addition to this reduction, the workmen have to allow a discount of 10 per cent. on all they can earn. They state, in addition, that in 1815 bread was 1s. 8d. per peck, and potatoes 4d. per peck; now bread is 2s. 8d. per peck, and potatoes 8d. per peck. The workmen in this trade cannot get full employment even at these low prices. A manufacturer of hinges stated "that the wages have been reduced 20 to 30 per cent. within the last ten years, caused by the want of a good demand;" also "that at this time there is little or no profit." A communication from a gun manufacturer stated that, previous to 1834, considerable quantities of materials, as gun-barrels, locks, bayonets, &c., were sent to Liege, and other places in Belgium and Germany; but that now they make these articles themselves, and can undersell us in the American market. The men in this country who now file the common pocket pistols must work very hard, from 12 to 16 hours per day, to earn 8s. to 12s. per week. Paper No. 14, from a manufacturer connected with the jewellery business, represented that trade as having very much declined within the last three or four years, and also that prices of manufactured articles have been very much reduced. A manufacturer of combs had stated that upon an inspection of his books he found that from 1836 to 1841 the decrease of business had been about 80 per cent. A gun maker stated that for a certain article, which in 1825 cost 2s. 6d., now he could procure the same for 11d.

Mr SCORR, M.P. for Walsall, gave some melancholy evidence respecting the neighbourhood of Stourbridge, and concluded by moving the following resolution:—

"The avowed object of the corn law is to create a monopoly in the food of man; and the operation of the corn law has been to counteract the designs of Providence, by

restricting the exchanges of the productions of industry—to deprive the working classes of their just remuneration for their labour, by shutting up the markets—to ruin the trade of Great Britain by circumscribing its intercourse with other nations—and to induce a fearful state of general and unprecedented distress, which daily becomes more intense, and threatens to destroy our commercial prosperity, and our very existence as a nation."

Mr DIMMOCK, of Bolton, seconded the resolution, and bore testimony to the reduced state of the workmen in that township.

A delegate from Darlaston said that the lock filers in that place now only received 8d. for the same work as they used in 1820 to receive 2s. 6d. for.

Mr TAUNTON, of Coventry, said the distress exceeded anything that had previously existed. 2,500 recipients of bread received about five thousand loaves per week in that city. Children might be seen most eager to procure pennyworths of liver, which some time back was not sold for food.

Mr JOSEPH WALKER, of Wolverhampton, moved the next resolution:—

"That inasmuch as the complicated evils under which the country now suffers are shown to be the natural fruits of monopoly, this meeting deprecates all legislative interference with industry, and pledges itself to adopt all peaceful and legal means to obtain a total and immediate abolition of the corn and provision laws."

JOSEPH STURGE, Esq., next addressed the meeting, and in the course of his observations, said that they must be determined upon a total repeal, as it was very probable that a modified motion would be brought forward in the House, and the ends they had in view would not be accomplished unless they were firm to their principles, in going unconditionally for the total and immediate abolition of the corn laws.

The resolutions were agreed to unanimously.

On Monday week a most numerous meeting was held at Derby, pursuant to requisition to the mayor, who occupied the chair, to petition for a total and immediate repeal of the corn laws. The immense Lancasterian school, in which the great Midland Counties' meeting was held, was filled with nearly 3,000 persons. The platform was occupied by the principal manufacturers of the town, Edward Strutt, Esq., M.P., among them. The Rev. Mr Jones proposed the petition, and Mr Morley, a large manufacturer, seconded the motion for its adoption. A working man, named Henry Knott, moved as an amendment—"That, although this meeting deeply and sincerely regret the evil working of the poor laws, and believe them bad and iniquitous, yet they do not believe they shall obtain their full measure of justice till the people's charter becomes the law of the land." John Moss, another working man, seconded the motion. The mayor said he could not consistently with his duty, put the amendment, as the meeting was called for a specific purpose—namely, to adopt a petition to parliament. The chartists might negative the petition if they liked, but he could not put any amendment. The petition must stand or fall. He then took a show of hands on the petition, and it was carried unanimously.

On Friday last a public meeting was held in the chapel at Wood street, Walthamstow, when a lecture was delivered to a respectable and attentive audience—on the analogy of the bread of life and the staff of life—by Mr Ebenezer Clarke, of Snaresbrook; in the course of which he pointed out the unscriptural and unreasonable nature of the corn laws, and their prejudicial effects upon all classes of the community. A band of music played several pieces appropriate to the occasion, and the audience separated deeply impressed with the necessity of the total repeal of the obnoxious impost.

Anti-corn-law meetings at Exeter and Hull have been disturbed by the chartists. The Hull meeting was attended by Mr Perronet Thompson, the son of the Colonel, and Mr Plint of Leeds; the mayor presiding. The chartists permitted the anti-corn-law resolutions to pass; but succeeded in tacking a rider of their own, of the usual tenour, to the petition. At Exeter, where Mr Divett spoke, several working men took part against the chartists, and they were beaten.—*Spectator*.

On Friday last a meeting was held at Derby, to adopt an address to the Queen and Prince Albert. At twelve o'clock the county hall was filled by great numbers of working men and labourers. The bench was filled by the aristocracy of the neighbourhood:—Messrs William Evans, M.P.; E. M. Mundy, M.P.; C. R. Colville, M.P.; Edward Strutt, M.P.; A. R. Strutt, John Strutt, Francis Hurt, J. Radford, T. G. Gisborne, H. S. Wilmot, Charles Clarke, John Balguy, E. A. Holden, W. P. Morewood, H. Fitzherbert, &c. Mr Bowden, high sheriff, took the chair. The Hon. and Rev. A. Curzon moved the address, which was seconded by Mr Evans, M.P. Before the motion was put, a working man rose to move an amendment. The address expressed its congratulations on the restored health of her Majesty from her late accouchement, with which he perfectly agreed; but he also wished her Majesty to know that thousands were undergoing the same suffering amidst every privation, and were almost in a state of starvation. The amendment he moved to be added to the address was—"At the same time we cannot but acquaint your Majesty, that thousands of virtuous women, your Majesty's subjects, are passing through the like natural extremities upon beds of straw, without even a pillow whereon to lay their heads, or sustenance to support them; that starvation and misery are pervading the whole land, and we attribute this state of things to class legislation, from which have sprung the abominable corn monopoly, the iniquitous poor law, and all other oppressive laws, which have reduced the people to their present wretched and miserable condition; and, therefore, we pray your Majesty to instruct your ministers to pass a law for the total and immediate repeal of all enactments that have a tendency to rob the millions for the benefit of the few, and also that every male inhabitant, 21 years of age, untainted with crime, may have a vote in the election of representatives in the Commons house of parliament, and that all such votes be given by ballot." Considerable excitement immediately ensued among the occupants of the bench. After vainly endeavouring to obtain a withdrawal of the amendment, they were obliged to withdraw their address, and left the bench. A working man was then voted to the chair, and the amendment was carried unanimously, and attached to the address. The Rev. T. Tring, Roman catholic priest, was appointed to present the address to her Majesty. The county gentry, on leaving the bench, proceeded to the grand jury room, where they passed their own address of congratulation.

The following circular has been issued by the Provisional Committee of the Birmingham Complete Suffrage Union:—

"The Provisional Committee of the Birmingham 'Complete Suffrage Union,' * will be obliged by being informed, on or before the 2nd Prox., of the number of signatures obtained up to the 31st instant, to the declaration recently forwarded by Joseph Sturge, classified in the manner shown at foot. The afore-named committee request the opinion of the gentlemen or local committees, to whom this is addressed, on the following suggestions, and will likewise be obliged by any additional hints promotive of the important object in view. It is under consideration to obtain the general signature by all classes to a national memorial to the Queen, of which the following is the proposed outline:—

"The undersigned, deeply impressed with the great evils to which this nation is subjected by class legislation, and especially of the sufferings thereby inflicted upon its industrious population, earnestly entreat that the Queen will be pleased to retain in her service, and take to her councils such ministers alone as will promote in parliament that full, fair, and free representation of the people in the British House of Commons, to which they are entitled alike by the great principle of Christian equity, and also by the British constitution, under which, Blackstone says, 'no subject of England can be constrained to pay any aids or taxes, even for the defence of the realm, or the support of government, but such as are imposed by his own consent, or that of his representatives in parliament.'"

It is suggested that the memorial should be presented to the Queen at the same period that a motion is made in the House of Commons to ascertain those of the present members who are in favour of a full, fair, and free representation of the people. The opinion of the friends of the object is also invited as to the propriety of a meeting of delegates from the local societies, to meet at some central point to be agreed upon, for the purpose of arranging a plan of combined and united action.

Birmingham, 1st Month (Jan.) 27th, 1842.

Total Number of Signatures obtained to the "Complete Suffrage"		} 100
Declaration at to February 1st, 1842		
of which		} 100
Non-electors, but of the	} 25	
middle class, are		
Electors	75	} 100

"It is not wished for the sheets to be returned filled, but merely to send a report of the numbers, in the above shape, on the 2nd Proximo, and a further similar report is requested at the end of next month."

An instance of the state of feeling amongst the working men in some parts of Nottinghamshire at the present unparalleled crisis, occurred on the night of Sunday 16th inst., in Southwell, when some unknown persons did considerable injury to many stocking frames, by pouring some strong acid upon them, thereby not only damaging the frames, but also spoiling what work was upon them at the time. A reward of 50l. is offered by Messrs Wilson, of Nottingham, to whom the frames belong.

Business has this week been of the same dull character at both cloth halls as we have had to record ever since the close of last year. There is scarcely any inquiry for fine goods, and low qualities are not more in request than they have been during the last few weeks. On the whole, we never remember so little business doing at this season. Business is also dull in the warehouses, although there have been a few buyers in the town during the week, yet their operations have been very small, compared to what has usually been the case at this season.—*Leeds Mercury*.

IRELAND.

The Dublin election terminated on Saturday evening, in the return of the tory candidate. At 5 o'clock the assessor ordered the booths to be closed and the polling books to be carried in. As the books were being compared, Mr Smith (agent for Lord Morpeth), addressing the assessor, announced that there were 400 voters ready to be polled for Lord Morpeth. Mr Keller (the assessor) reminded Mr Smith that after 5 o'clock no votes could be received. Mr Keating, on the part of the conservative candidate, having protested against the interruption, and Mr Pigott (late Attorney-General) having stated, with some warmth, that this course had not been pursued at the last election, a conversation ensued, which was ended by the assessor, who decided that, according to the act of parliament, he could receive no votes after 5 o'clock on the fifth day. The High Sheriff then entered the court-house, and proclaimed the state of the gross poll to be

Gregory	3,825
Morpeth	3,435

Gross majority	390
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Mr Gregory having been in the usual form declared the successful candidate, the Hon. Mr Howard, and Mr ex-Attorney-General Pigott addressed the assembly, who shortly after dispersed, and the city almost immediately resumed its wonted quiet. The Lord Mayor, who was expected to address the assembly, was prevented from attending by indisposition, his lordship suffering, it is said, from a severe bilious attack.

Limerick has been visited with one of the most terrific and destructive gales of wind ever witnessed. The gale commenced between the hours of three and four o'clock, a.m., from the southward, and continued with unabated violence till noon. The damage done to the shipping is supposed to be above fifteen thousand pounds. The tide was forced considerably above the level of the quays, so that any attempt to keep fenders in their proper place was completely out of the question. The destruction among the houses was also very considerable; roofs and chimneys have been blown down, and windows in thousands have been broken. Two houses have been blown down, and six persons buried in the ruins. The streets have a most desolate appearance; the shop windows are all closed, and business is totally suspended.

A strange occurrence has taken place at Ballyheigue, which will be productive of some benefit to the poor of that district in this inclement season. Most of our readers are no doubt aware, that on Ballyheigue strand a number of sand hills were collected. It appears that the tide had gradually undermined these hills, and last week they were, by the reflux of the tide, carried completely away. A few persons in the neighbourhood, having gone to ex-

* This name is only provisionally adopted, subject to any change suggested that may appear an improvement.

amine the place thus left bare, found the surface to consist of a fine description of bog-mould, which yielded at once to the spade; and, with very little trouble as to preparation and drying, this mould was found to make excellent fuel.—*Kerry Examiner*.

SCOTLAND.

The declaration of Joseph Sturge, Esq., in favour of "complete suffrage," is being extensively adopted by the movement party of the middle classes in this town.—*Dundee Chronicle*.

NATIONAL REMONSTRANCE.

To the Commons House of Parliament in their collective capacity assembled. The remonstrance of the undersigned inhabitants of this kingdom, respectfully sheweth,

That we have just cause of complaint and remonstrance against you, who, in the name of the commons of Great Britain and Ireland, profess to represent, watch over, and legislate for our interests. That as the ancient and constitutional custom of public petitioning has, by your acts, been rendered a mere mockery, we are thus induced to substitute a public remonstrance against you; it being the legitimate means by which any portion of the people, whose political rights have one by one been legislated away by their rulers, can appeal to the public opinion of their country; a tribunal by whose will representation is alone rendered constitutional, and for whose benefit alone government is established.

We justly complain of your utter disregard, and seeming contempt, of the wants and wishes of the people, as expressed in the prayers and petitions they have been humbly addressing to you, for a number of years past. For while they have been complaining of the unequal, unjust, and cruel laws you have enacted, which in their operation have reduced millions to poverty, and punished them because they were poor; you have been either increasing the catalogue, or mocking them with expensive and fruitless commissions, or telling them that "their poverty was beyond the reach of legislative enactment."

While they have been complaining that you take from them three-fourths of their earnings by your complicated system of taxation; and by your monopolies force them into unequal competition with other nations; you have exhibited a contempt for their complaints in your profligate and lavish expenditure at home and abroad; and by a selfish pertinacity in favour of the monopolies you have created for your own especial interests or those of your party.

While they have been praying that our civil list may be reduced in proportion to the exigencies of the state; and, at a time like the present, when bankruptcy, insolvency, and national destitution prevail to an extent unparalleled in history, that her Majesty and her consort should be made acquainted with the necessity for dispensing with useless and extravagant frivolities; yet you, in ready compliance with the wishes of the ministry, have gratified such extravagance at the expense of want and wretchedness. When, if you had been loyal to your queen or just to your country, you would have shown her the necessity for retrenchment in every department of her household.

While the humane and considerate portion of the population have been demonstrating to you the evils of ignorance and source of crime, and have been entreating you to apply to the purposes of education and social improvement the enormous sums which you inhumanly employ in punishing the victims of your vicious institutions and culpable neglect; you have gone on recklessly despising the prayers of humanity and justice, augmenting your police, increasing your soldiers, raising prisons, and devising new means of coercion, in a useless attempt to prevent crime by severity of punishment; instead of cultivating the minds, improving the hearts, and administering to the physical necessities of the people.

While the intelligence and humanity of our countrymen have been loudly expressed against sanguinary and cruel wars—barbarous means for brutalising the people and perpetuating bull dog courage under the name of glory: you, who profess to watch over our interests, have, in order to gratify aristocratical cupidity, selfishness, and ambition, been supporting unjust and uncalled-for wars, by which thousands of human beings have been led on to slaughter and to death, and through which our enormous debt will be increased, and the stigma of cruelty and injustice left upon our national character.

While our brethren have been praying for religious freedom, you have allowed a state church to take from them upwards of nine millions per annum; independent of the evils it inflicts on them by its troublesome imposts, grasping selfishness, and anti-gospel persecuting spirit.

While our brethren have been contending for the free circulation of thought and opinion, through the channel of an unshackled press, as a means by which truth may be elicited, and our institutions improved; you have been imposing the most arbitrary measures to check public opinion, retard freedom of inquiry, and to prevent knowledge from being cheaply diffused.

While our social evils and anomalies have repeatedly been brought before you, you, whose duty it was to provide a remedy, have looked carelessly on, or have been intent only on your interests or your pleasures. Your own commissioners have reported to you, that thousands of infant children are doomed to slavery and ignorance in our mines and factories, while their wretched parents are wanting labour and needing bread—that wives and mothers, to procure a miserable subsistence for their families, are compelled to neglect their offspring and their homes, and all the domestic duties which belong to their sex; that thousands of skilful mechanics are starving on a few pence, which they obtain for fourteen hours daily toil—that vast numbers, anxious to labour, are left to linger and perish from cold and hunger—that in Ireland alone two million three hundred thousand are in a state of beggary and destitution; and that misery, wretchedness, and crime are fast spreading their deteriorating influence, and gradually undermining the fabric of society.

Nor is your misgovernment confined to this country alone, but its baleful influence is felt in every part of the world where British authority is known. Throughout our dominions you have permitted rights the most sacred to be invaded in order to provide nesting places for aristocratical fledglings. You have disregarded the constitutions you have given, violated the promises you have made, and, spurning the prayers and petitions of our colonial brethren, you have trampled upon every principle of justice to establish your power, and feed your ravenous lust for gain.

You have therefore shown by your acts that you do not represent the wants and wishes of the people; on the contrary, self, or party considerations are seen in almost every enactment you have made, or measure you have sanctioned. So far from representing the commons of this country, or legislating for them, the majority of you have neither feelings or interests in common with them.

It is seen by your proceedings, that while the supposed rights of every class and party can find advocates among you, the right of labour is left to find its own "level." Is the justice of tithes questioned, the wisdom of ecclesiastical law doubted? or a repugnance shown by conscientious men to support the church they dissent from? the church can always find its zealous defenders among you. Is the expensive and unjust administration of

the law complained of, together with all its technical and perplexing absurdities? its wisdom and propriety is at once demonstrated by your host of legal advocates. Does any one presume to question the propriety of our very expensive military and naval establishments, or to doubt the justice of flogging as a means of discipline? he will soon find a regiment among you prepared to combat his opinions. Is the justice questioned of allowing the landowners to tax the people of this country to the extent of seventeen millions annually, to support their own especial monopolies? eloquent advocates will at once be found among you to plead for the vested rights of property. In short, bankers, merchants, manufacturers, and all interests and professions can find advocates and defenders in the Commons' House excepting the common people themselves.

That there are some well intentioned and benevolent individuals among you, we readily admit; but far too many of those who profess liberal and just principles think more of the safety of their seats, and the prejudices of their associates, than they do of any active measures to carry their principles into practice. Instead of boldly proclaiming the dishonesty, hollowness, and injustice of your present legislative system, the party cry, of *whig* and *tory*, is too often the substance of their speeches—the cheat and phantom which you all use to silence the timid and divert the ignorant.

That you do not represent the people of this country may be further seen from the fact, that those who return you are not more than a seventh part of the adult male population. For by the last returns that were laid before you, while in Great Britain and Ireland there are about 5,812,276 males above twenty years of age, the registered electors are only 812,916; and it is practically proved, that of those electors only about nine in every twelve actually vote; and of these nine, many possess a plurality of votes.

On analysing the constituency of the United Kingdom it is also proved, that the majority of you are returned by 158,870 registered electors, giving an average constituency to each of you of only 242 electors.

It is also proved by the returns that have been made, that 39 of you are returned by less than 300 electors each, 43 by less than 400, 20 by less than 500, 34 by less than 600, 34 by less than 700, 20 by less than 800, 18 by less than 900, and 23 by less than 1,000 registered electors.

It is also notorious that, in the Commons' House, which is said to be exclusively the people's! there are two hundred and five persons who are immediately or remotely related to the peers of the realm! That it also contains 3 marquises, 9 earls, 23 viscounts, 27 lords, 32 right honourables, 63 honourables, 58 baronets, 10 knights, 2 admirals, 8 lord lieutenants, 74 deputy and vice lieutenants, 1 general, 1 lieutenant general, 7 major generals, 22 colonels, 32 lieutenant colonels, 7 majors, 67 captains in army and navy, 12 lieutenants, 2 cornets, 53 magistrates, 63 placemen, and 108 patrons of church livings having the patronage of 247 livings between them. And there are little more than 200 out of the 658 members of your house, who have not either titles, office, place, pension, or church patronage.

These facts afford abundant proof that you neither represent the number or the interests of the millions, but that the greatest portion of you have interests foreign, or directly opposed to the true interests of the people of this country.

Setting aside your party changes and rival bickerings, important only to those among you who are in possession of the public purse; with a knowledge of your past actions, and with these notorious facts before us—as plain-speaking men, claiming the freedom of speech as our birthright, we hesitate not to declare, that individually and collectively you have all been tried by the test of public utility, and with few exceptions have been found wanting in every requisite for representatives of an intelligent and industrious population.

The wide extent of misery which your legislation has occasioned, and the spread of information which your decrees could not suppress, have called up inquiring minds in every portion of the empire to investigate your actions, to question your authority, and finally to condemn your unjust and exclusive power.

They have demonstrated to their brethren, that the only rational use of the institutions and laws of society, is to protect, encourage, and support, all that can be made to contribute to the happiness of all the people.

That as the object to be attained is mutual benefit, so ought the enactment of laws to be by mutual consent.

That obedience to the laws can only be justly enforced on the certainty that those who are called on to obey them have had, either personally or by their representatives, a power to enact, amend, or repeal them.

That all who are excluded from this share of political power, are not justly included within the operation of the laws. To them the laws are only despotic enactments; and the assembly from whom they emanate can only be considered an unholy interested compact, devising plans and schemes for taxing and subjecting the many.

In consonance with these opinions they have embodied in a document, called "The People's Charter," such just and reasonable principles of representation as, in their opinion, are calculated to secure honest legislation and good government.

That document proposes to confer the franchise on every citizen of twenty-one years of age, who has resided in a district three months, who is of sane mind, and unconvicted of crime.

"It proposes to divide the United Kingdom into 300 electoral districts, containing as nearly as may be an equal number of inhabitants, each district to send one member to parliament and no more.

It proposes to take the votes of the electors by ballot in order to protect them against unjust influence.

It proposes that parliament be chosen annually.

It proposes to abolish money qualifications for members of parliament.

It proposes that members of parliament be paid for their services; and moreover contains the details by which all these propositions shall be carried into practice.

This document, being so just in its demand, has already received the sanction of a vast portion of the population, and petitions in its favour have already been laid before you containing a larger number of signatures than, probably, have ever been obtained in favour of any legislative enactment. And though indiscretion among some of its advocates may have retarded public opinion in its favour, we are confident that the conviction in favour of its justice and political efficacy, has taken deep root in the mind of the nation, and is making rapid progress among all classes not interested in existing corruptions.

That you may see the wisdom and propriety of timely yielding to such opinion in favour of a better representative system, and that you will speedily declare in favour of the PEOPLE'S CHARTER; or, by resigning your seats, prepare the way for those who will enact it as the law of these realms, is the ardent prayer of us, the undersigned inhabitants of this kingdom.

THE NIGER EXPEDITION.

The Warree, which arrived at Liverpool on Wednesday last, from Africa, brought home as passengers, Captain Trotter, R.N., one of the commanders of the late African expedition, the Rev. Mr M'Shane, Dr Stranger, and four invalids of the late Niger expedition: one of the men belonging to the expedition died on the voyage home. The Warree left Fernando Po on the 23d November, and was towed as far as St Thomas's by her Majesty's steamer Albert, which then proceeded to Ascension with the rest of the officers

and crews of the late expedition, and who were then very far from convalescent. The Albert would endeavour to meet the Wilberforce steamer, belonging to the expedition (which was expected to return to the Niger as soon as the health of Captain William Allen was recruited), and would proceed with her to Ascension, where they would remain with the crews until instructions were received from this country as to their future proceedings. Her Majesty's steamer Soudan was laid up in ordinary at Clarence Cove where she would await further orders from home. Captain Trotter had quite recovered his health, and proceeded direct to London.

The following particulars are taken from the report of Captain Trotter, dated Fernando Po, Oct. 25, 1841:—

"My last letter, dated the 18th of September, from the confluence of the Niger and Tchadda, would acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that fever had broken out on board the vessels of the expedition, and that I had found it necessary to despatch the Soudan to the sea with all the cases the surgeons deemed to require a change of climate.

"I also informed their lordships, in the same letter, that the Albert was about to proceed up the Niger, and the Wilberforce up the Tchadda, in prosecution of the objects of the mission.

"After the departure of the Soudan, however, two of the engineers of the Wilberforce were taken ill; and the crew had become so weakened by an increased number of cases of fever, that Commander William Allen found it impossible to proceed up the Tchadda, and I accordingly ordered him to take his vessel forthwith to the sea, and, if necessary, on to Ascension.

"It being of importance to reach Rabbah this year, to finish the chain of treaties with chiefs on the banks of the Niger, I deemed it my duty to try the experiment; and, accordingly, I weighed at the same time with the Wilberforce, on the 21st September, and the Albert proceeded up the river while she moved down. The cases of sickness, however, continued to increase, till at length, when we got to Egga, on the 28th of September, the only remaining engineer was taken ill, and no officers excepting Dr M'William, Mr Willie, mate, and myself, were free from fever. We continued wooding and preparing to return down the river till the 4th of October, when I was myself seized with fever, and Mr Willie a day or two afterwards.

"On the 5th of October, Mr Willie weighed and dropped down the river, but was soon prevented by sickness from carrying on duty; and Dr M'William, assisted by only one white seaman, lately recovered from fever, took charge of the vessel, not thinking it right, in my state of fever, to report Mr Willie's illness.

"From want of engineers, we should have had to drop down the whole length of the river without steam, had not Dr Stanger, the geologist, took the vessel safely below Eboe, without anything going wrong with the machinery, while Dr M'William, in addition to his enormous press of duty, as a medical officer, conducted the ship down the river in the most able and judicious manner. When about 100 miles from the sea, Captain Becroft happily made his appearance in the Æthiope steamer, having been requested to ascend the river and communicate with us by Commander William Allen, of the Wilberforce; and it was really a providential mercy that he arrived when he did; for had any accident, however trivial, happened to the engines, they could not have been worked any longer, as Dr Stanger had no knowledge of the manner of rectifying it. Fever still prevented my going on deck, and there was no executive officer to take the vessel over the bar, and only one convalescent sailor doing duty, and no black sailor who could properly take the helm.

"The morning after our arrival, the sick were all landed in comfortable quarters, provided for the officers and men in the most kind and prompt manner by the agent of the West African Company; and we have reason to believe the climate to be healthy for the present. The air is cooler than the Niger by about 12 degrees.

"I omitted to mention that off the bar of the Nun we met the Soudan, about to re-ascend the river, under the charge of Lieutenant Strange, in the absence of Lieutenant Fishbourne, who had been sent sick to Ascension. She was in a very inefficient state, and returned with us to this anchorage. Mr Strange is at present in charge of the Albert, as well as the Soudan, the officers of this ship of every rank being in sick quarters, with the exception of Mr Mouat assistant clerk, doing duty at the hospital.

"I regret to state, that, in addition to the loss of Mr Nightingale, assistant surgeon, and four seamen, as mentioned in my letter of the 18th of Sept., Mr Lodge, the second engineer, two seamen, and one marine of the ship; Mr Kingdon, seaman's schoolmaster of the Soudan, Mr Willie, mate, and the purser's steward, have died since, and it is my painful duty to add, that the death of Commander Bird Allen, of the Soudan, has been this moment reported to me; and that Mr D. H. Stenhouse, acting Lieutenant of the Albert, is lying in a most precarious state.

"I call the disease the "river fever," because the surgeons report it to be of a nature that is not treated of in any work on the subject, and it has such peculiarities as they appear never before to have witnessed either in African or West Indian fever.

"The Soudan left the Confluence on her passage down the river on the 19th of September, under charge of Lieutenant Fishbourne, with the master, a mate, and the second engineer able to do a little duty; but on the following day these officers were too ill to afford Mr Fishbourne any assistance. He had, however, two stokers able to drive the engines, who were for a time well enough to do duty, and he reached the mouth of the Nun in the short space of two days afterwards. During the last 24 hours before reaching Fernando Po he was compelled to work the engines and do every other duty himself. Such exertions could not fail to hurt his health, and he was seized with fever at this place after his arrival, though I am happy to say he was doing well on board the Wilberforce when she sailed for Ascension.

"Before the Soudan reached Fernando Po, Mr Marshall, acting surgeon, and Mr Waters, clerk in charge, fell a sacrifice to the climate; and a stoker of the Soudan, and the seaman's schoolmaster of the Albert, died after their arrival.

"The Wilberforce left the Confluence on the 21st of September, but, owing to the necessity of cutting fuel, did not reach the Nun until the 25th, nor Fernando Po till the 1st of October. Dr Pritchett, the acting surgeon of that ship, had 26 cases under treatment when she left the Confluence, and the number increased afterwards.

"The Wilberforce, during her passage down, and at Fernando Po, had the misfortune to lose her purser, Mr Cyrus Wakeham, and Peter Fitzgerald, a stoker; also Mr Harvey, acting master of the Albert; and Mr Coleman, acting assistant surgeon of the Soudan.

"I have no exact return of the number taken ill in the Wilberforce; but I believe it may be stated that only five white persons escaped the fever in that vessel, whilst there are only four who have not been attacked in the Albert up to the present time, and no white person in the Soudan escaped it; and when I add that Dr M'William is of opinion that few, if any, will be fit to return to the coast of Africa who have had the fever, and that every lieutenant excepting Mr Strange, all the medical officers but Dr Pritchett and Mr Thompson (it is doubtful yet whether Dr M'William has the river fever or not), all the mates, masters, second masters, and clerks, the whole of the engineers and stokers of the expedition, and the gunner of the Albert (the only vessel that has an officer of that rank), have been at-

tacked, their lordships will be able to form an idea of the paralysed state of the steam vessels.

"It will be impossible for me to inform their lordships as to the efficiency of the expedition for future operations, until I can get to Ascension. I may, however, observe, that it will be found scarcely possible to officer and man more than one of the steam vessels, unless assistance be sent from England, or obtained from the strength of the African squadron.

"Dr M'William is quite of opinion, as far as he can judge, that the Niger is not fit for white constitutions; and I shall take care to keep this in view when making arrangements at Ascension, so that the fewest possible number of white men may be continued in the steam vessels.

"Captain Becroft whose knowledge of the river exceeds that of any other person, is of opinion (and I quite concur with him on the subject) that the Niger should not be entered before the beginning of July, as it is doubtful whether the river will have sufficiently risen to insure the passage up without detention, so that their lordships may calculate upon the Albert and Wilberforce remaining at Ascension till the 1st of June.

"It will be necessary for one steam vessel to go up the Niger next year, as I left the Amelia tender at the Confluence of the Niger, and the Tchadda, for the protection of the people of the model farm. Not thinking it right to leave up the river any white person, after the fatal sickness we had experienced, I placed the vessel in charge of a trustworthy black, with twelve other natives of Africa under him, all intelligent, steady men.

"I conceive it will be my duty to go to England, by the first opportunity, from Ascension, after my arrival, in order to lay the exact condition of the expedition before their lordships; and I have every reason to think I shall be able to arrive in March, which would give me ample time to rejoin the expedition, should their lordships require my further services.

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, February 2, 1842.

SOUTHAMPTON ANTI-CORN-LAW CONVENTION.

(From our Correspondent.)

Southampton, Tuesday Evening.

The few minutes before post closes, afford me time to give you a few details respecting the first meeting of the important Anti-corn-law conference, advertised to be held in this town.

The circulars of invitation addressed to a large number of the ministers of this and the adjoining counties, were responded to by a very numerous attendance, together with some of the most distinguished men who have been forward in this momentous question; among whom were, George Thompson, Esq., Manchester; the Rev. Mr Spencer, Bath; Sir John Easthope, &c., &c. Never were materials so well selected and prepared for demonstrating the evils arising from unjust and burdensome laws in this place before.

Long ere the time of meeting, the body of the room (capable of holding 3,000 or 4,000 persons) was occupied by a number of unemployed labouring men, who it is known had been engaged by the tory party, and paid 2s. each, to annoy the speakers and prevent their being heard, and consequently to upset the meeting. I am sorry to say they were too successful in their mean and dishonourable attempt. Among the clamourers there were a few chartists, but the principal were men too degraded to understand, and too intoxicated to act upon any principles; they were paid servile ruffians! At half-past five, P.M., the committee and delegates entered the room, and after much difficulty took possession of the platform.

The Right Hon. the Earl of RADNOR was called to the chair; but before he uttered many sentences, it became evident that it would be impossible to proceed. One speaker after another rose to reason with the noisy auditory. The Revs Thos Atkins, Spencer, &c., plied them with arguments the most weighty, but all was in vain, and only an occasional sentence was heard.

A CHARTIST, whose name I could not hear, was heard with tolerable attention. He said he was an advocate for the repeal of the corn laws. He wished to hear the arguments which the gentlemen by whom he was surrounded were prepared to adduce, but he appeared there to tell them that the corn laws were only one branch of the evil tree, which had taken such deep root in British soil, and whose fruit was so destructive to the rights and liberties of the mass of the people. He should support the subject of the evening's discussion, but only in connexion with universal suffrage. He begged all classes to allow free discussion, to hear every speaker. He told them they were doing their cause immense injury, and that their conduct would tend rather to widen than heal the breach existing between the middle and working classes.

GEORGE THOMPSON, Esq., stated that he had traveled upwards of 300 miles in order to be present at the conference. He was ashamed of the Southampton people, but knew full well, there were but few who were disinclined to hear; and they were paid, drunken hirelings, employed by Mr Fleming, for the purpose of disturbing the meeting; they are marshaled under Mr Fleming's steward, gardener, and servants. They are all here. He begged that the enlightened and respectable men present would mark these men. He called upon those who were anxious for free and fair discussion to hold up their hands, when it appeared evident there were at least 30 to 1 in favour.

Sir JOHN EASTHOPE, after considerable difficulty, obtained a hearing. He said he had been known too long and too well by the people of Southampton to be looked upon as their enemy. He had long taken a deep interest in the welfare of their town, and looking upon its growing prosperity, hoped that liberal and enlightened views, high and noble principles, would make continual advance upon the minds of the people. He much regretted the scene of degradation and confusion he had witnessed, and trusted the town would never be disgraced by a repetition.

All means resorted to failing of producing order, it was proposed and seconded that an adjournment should take place.

The Chairman and committee then retired to consult as to their future steps.

I am not in possession of their decision, but understand an open-air meeting will be called to-morrow, and lectures delivered the following days, Thursday and Friday. Admission only by tickets.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE, THIS DAY.

The supply of wheat is as follows, viz.—English, 970 quarters; foreign, 14,400 quarters. Very little business is doing, and prices remain the same as on Monday.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- "W. J. S." We should like to have inserted his communication if it had been somewhat shorter.
 "B. W." Declined, with thanks.
 "Micah." We shall probably be able to weave his information into shape hereafter.
 "E. T." As we are not publishing the pamphlet in question, we are unable to reply to his query.
 "C. A. Windealt." The ecclesiastical articles will possibly appear in another form.
 "J. B. Smith's" hint will be attended to.
 "A. T." is irritable. There is no sentence in the *Nonconformist* which betrays a sectarian leaning. The private opinions of the editor, as he has no right to ask, so we shall decline to publish. Let him look at the sentence again, and he will find it waives discussion upon a controversial point of divinity.

With our present number we give the Title and Index to the first volume of the *Nonconformist*; which is so arranged as to be cut off, and leave the paper of its usual size.

ERRATUM.

In our last number but one, in the article headed, "The Bishop of Jerusalem," page 34, last line of first paragraph in the second column, for "non-existing laws," read "now existing chaos."

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.

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The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1842.

SUMMARY.

THE news of the week is unimportant. A general lull precedes the opening of parliament. The *Court Circular* records the movements of the royal guest, the King of Prussia—but the notice taken of them by the public is not very flattering. The *Court Journal* and the *Spectator* seem to take an absorbing interest in the West end agitations. The latter, indeed, has become the very pink of courtiers, and with a little practice will speedily follow in the wake of the *Morning Herald*, by which, we doubt not, it will be taken in tow. Philosophers, however, make but indifferent gallants. A bow from an elephant may be more flattering than graceful. Because a man can discriminate in matters political, that is no sufficient warrant for him to attempt to play the fiddle.

The Dublin election is a failure. Lord Morpeth is rejected by a majority of 390. Here is a fair representation of the representative system. The castle, the sheriff, the assessor, and a minority, can, at will, defeat the well-known wishes of the people. Lord Eliot, meanwhile, is away, to escape, we suppose, the odium of foul deeds done in his name. There is nothing peculiarly Irish in all this. It strikes us as but a somewhat more vivid illustration than usual, although of no unusual kind, of the absurd anomalies of our present elective system. Perhaps, too, the Lord Mayor O'Connell will learn from it, that he who pursues the ends of party, in preference to those of the community at large, generally lives to repent of his folly. The whigs whom O'Connell sacrificed everything to save, may be destined at last to sink the "great man" himself. We hope not. We shall be glad to see him clean out of those toils.

The Duke of Buckingham leaves the cabinet and takes "a blue riband." *N'importe*. His departure is too late to afford sufficient ground for hope. Had the premier been in earnest, the "farmer's friend" would have found the door before now. Besides, Sir E. Knatchbull and Lord Ripon remain, and any important relaxation of the restrictive system must have been smoke in their hive, as well as well as in that of the Duke of Buckingham. They, however, are at home, and seemingly at ease. There cannot, therefore, be any great stir.

Birmingham has united its voice to those of other manufacturing districts, in earnest testimony against the present food monopoly. Labour, and that species of property which labour requires, have sunk from thirty to fifty per cent. in value, whilst food has risen in the same proportion. We refer our readers to our condensed report. It will be noticed that Joseph Sturge, Esq., repeated his warning against any compromise on the anti-corn-law question—a warning, the necessity of which we gather from the fact, that the London papers gave no sign of its having been uttered either at Edinburgh or Glasgow. Foul play is always to be suspected, when suppression is systematically resorted to by the press. The "Fox Maules" of the free-trade party, are, we gather from this, little disposed to promote "total and immediate repeal."

It will be seen that a circular has been issued from Birmingham in reference to "complete suffrage," which merits prompt attention from the friends of that movement. We learn that the cause is quietly, but rapidly making progress, and that individuals of the middle class, in considerable numbers, are ready to unite in efforts to obtain it.

Ecclesiastical matters afford abundant material for reflection. Three or four illustrations of state-church religion, of the newest order, have been communicated to us, and accident only prevents us from grouping them into a picture for this week's paper. They will, happily, lose none of their richness by keeping, and we may next week be able to add another figure or two. To Mr Swaine's communication, we refer our readers—reserving our own remarks upon it until another occasion.

THE APPROACHING REVELATION.

PARLIAMENT will assemble to-morrow—and ere long, the all-important secrets of the cabinet will be divulged. Five weary months have been spent by the premier and his colleagues in study and in silence—and away from the gaze of peering curiosity and tell-tale gossip, they have been busy in concocting schemes for the salvation of the country. The greatness which they owed to mystery has well nigh run out its term. The time is at hand when vague generalities must give place to tangible measures. Ministers must speak, and tell us, not merely that they mean well, but what it is they mean. Forth from the darkness in which they have managed to envelop themselves, they must come at last; and the secret which has been so well and faithfully kept must transpire. What will it be? We shall not venture upon predictions which the royal speech may blow away before to-morrow's sunset, but we may just set down a thing or two, which if embodied in the forthcoming policy of the conservative government, will startle us with unusual surprise.

Our expectations will, assuredly, be most pleasingly disappointed, should the measures about to be laid before parliament by her Majesty's government, prove to rest upon the basis of a calm, impartial, comprehensive, statesmanlike view of the position and exigencies of the country. Never did nation more imperatively require, than Britain at the present moment, the guidance of a great and truly heroic mind. From no height of party can the whole range of its wants be seen. Up, far above the level of class prejudices and sectarian interests, must he stand, who would control with effect the conflicting movements of society, and detect at a glance the bearings which every separate arrangement will have upon the destiny of the whole. Men who persist in occupying the low grounds of class feeling, and who move amid the brushwood of temporary expediency, may have skill enough to head a company in a skirmish, but will attempt in vain to lay down, or even to conceive a key principle of action, which will give significance to every petty detail, unity of bearing to every movement, and certain triumph to the whole body under command. Sir Robert Peel we anticipate has framed his plans for the day, not for the age—has preferred to serve his party, rather than his country—and has had in his mind, as the object to be aimed at, the cheers of a House of Commons which may presently pass off the stage, instead of the approbation and gratitude of England's posterity. Comprehensive legislation, then—legislation founded upon views which extend beyond St Stephens, and look further than a session, we do not hope for from the present cabinet.

That very considerable talent enters into the composition of the tory government, we cannot but admit. That there is amongst them a single commanding intellect—a mind which has power to stamp its own image upon the age, to combine all social elements and weave all existing circumstances into one vast plan, and touch the deep springs of a nation's destiny, not even the trumpeters of party can pretend. Any other blast they may blow in praise of their patrons, but this would be all too ridiculous even for them. The right honourable premier has never yet evinced any larger capacity than would suffice to master details, to manage a parliamentary section, and to give a glossy surface to common place measures. His statesmanship is of the order of "shabby genteel." There is an air of philosophical pretence about it which at first sight impresses the spectator with a notion that it belongs to the highest order. It has the cut of respectability. But it will not bear inspection. The texture of his legislation is of the commonest and the coarsest. The gloss has been assiduously put on for the day—ox-gall and indigo—and a few days wear exposes all its seams and patches, inasmuch that what is looked at with admiration to-day, is seen to-morrow with a feeling of wonder that admiration should ever have been excited. He is essentially a little man—a man who understands well enough the common arithmetic, but cannot comprehend the algebra of government—a plodding, pottering mind, far more expert in tinkering holes, than in forging and constructing new implements—whose genius was never bold enough to admit that an old kettle is past service, and that another must supply its place. He has no door of understanding wide enough to admit a full-grown principle. Vanity is his predominating characteristic. To an unbounded appetite for present applause, he caters with incessant anxiety. A chorus of cheers is the sweetest music to his soul—and to be cut by the aristocracy would be his heaviest doom. He would "eat," as the orientals have it, "immeasurable dirt" rather than lose the homage done to him by "noble bloods." He knows it to be constrained and insincere, but he is mean enough to be pleased with it notwithstanding. By a cabinet over which such a man presides, we should be astonished indeed if any masterly line of policy be struck out.

If, turning from Sir Robert Peel, we fix our attention upon his party, we find less and less ground for anticipating great measures. The greater portion of them, we fear, notwithstanding their extravagant boasts, have grown up so familiarly with the present system, have so completely formed their habits upon it, and upon it based their pecuniary arrangements for the future, that a truly national policy would cut sheer through their present establishments, and overthrow all the calculations upon which they have made provision to meet the demands created by past extravagance. Their immense wealth is, in the majority of cases, relative rather than real. Estates mortgaged beyond their natural market value, and having to meet heavy claims in the shape of interest, may be princely enough, whilst their proprietors are yet poor. It may be matter of necessity with most of our landowners, titled or untitled, to screw up rents to the highest pitch of tension, and a slight diminution of income caused by legislation, might leave

them burdened with debts which they possess not the means to pay. With such elements around him, what can a man slavishly devoted to the aristocracy do? Justice to the people would be ruin to them. They would risk a convulsion rather than a fall of rents, for a convulsion would afford them a chance, at least, of shaking off incumbrances.

The right honourable baronet, able as he is to count upon a large majority, secured in office by a new parliament, ready to propitiate the court by any extravagance, borne on by a powerful party whose necessities cry aloud for protection, in fear of no organised, compact, energetic opposition, having under view the division subsisting between the middle and labouring classes, and being himself a man of small though neat parts—the right honourable baronet will awaken a great deal of marveling in our minds, if, after all, it should turn out that he has matured measures to submit to this present parliament, worthy of the present crisis, or adequate to meet our country's wants. He may thus disappoint a nation's fears and a faction's hopes. We should be sorry, however, to predict that he will.

From the character of the present government, we think it not altogether unlikely, that the course which legislation will take during the session on the eve of commencement, will be circular, or like a door on its hinges, which, as was wittily remarked of Dr Chalmers's eloquence, exhibits "perpetual movement but no progression." There will be a show of concession, and a substantial retention of whatever landlords deem conducive to their interests. The corn-law plan broached by Mr Christopher, whether it be or be not Sir Robert Peel's, contains all the characteristics of his mind. It will serve, therefore, as a sample of what we anticipate. The plan got rid of the extravagantly high duties levied at low prices, which, whilst they afforded no protection to the landlord, seemed to be a hardship on the people—and it increased the nominal duty levied at the highest prices of corn. It made the sliding scale more regular and less precipitous, and gave a promise, in this view of it, of relief to the country—but it also took the averages more stringently, so that what was gained by one provision was lost by the other. Substantially it left every thing as before—seemingly it was a liberal boon conferred upon the people. In dexterous ambiguity and practical equivocation, no man is a more consummate master than Sir Robert Peel. We have prepared ourselves for finished specimens of this species of statesmanship in "the approaching revelation." Anything soaring higher than this mark will awaken our astonishment.

RAISING THE WIND—DITTO, No. 1.

In our last number, we traced the legislative course taken by the landed interest down to the period of the revolution. We now resume the inquiry; and proceed, with Mr Scott's assistance, to whose pamphlet, already quoted, we acknowledge ourselves mainly indebted for our information, to lay before our readers a few more illustrations, than which nothing more perfect can be imagined, of the evils flowing from class rule. Considering the unvarying policy which our parliaments have pursued for nearly two centuries—taking into account the heartlessness they have uniformly evinced—seeing the ingenuity they have displayed in recovering as speedily as possible the ground which temporary pressure has occasionally forced them to abandon—knowing that they possess, at the present moment, a majority large enough to embolden them to set public opinion at defiance—is it unnatural in us, we ask, to conclude that an agitation, carried on by the middle class alone, will be found inadequate to overthrow the work of several generations; or to fear that, if with the aid of the labouring classes they could accomplish the undertaking, the nation would be robbed by yet more crafty means?

At the "glorious revolution," as we are wont to call it, of 1688, another unconstitutional convention assembled, for it was deemed too hazardous to venture upon an election. It was made up of those who had at any time sat in the corrupt parliaments of Charles the second. The profligacy of the statesmen who surrounded William the third, is an infamous blot upon the historical page of our country. The property appended to the crown was clutched, and distributed, "until there was nothing left to alienate;" under the hypocritical pretence that public liberty could only be guaranteed by rendering the monarch dependent on parliament. The King was stripped of all power, and, thenceforth, became a puppet in the hands of an oligarchy. The landowners, great and small, seized the post of supremacy in the state. Their path was now cleared of every obstruction—and, in the assumed name of the people, they set to work with vigour to consolidate their power and to increase their incomes.

We have seen how they commenced their selfish project, by repealing the prohibitory duties on the exportation of corn, and how, soon after, they went further, and enacted prohibitory duties on its importation. Literally translated, their statutes spoke after this fashion. "The produce of those lands which we have succeeded in relieving from the rent we once paid to the state on account of occupancy, we must henceforth take to the best market we can find. The people must seek no other market than our's. We will sell where we please—they must buy of us alone." The corn taken out of the country, as a matter of course, left less in it—the less that remained, the higher became the price of it—the more profitable were rents—the more valuable, estates. But even this did not satisfy the all-devouring maw of class legislators. Corn sold in the continental markets must be carried there, and the expenses of freight, together with the other charges of conveying the commodity to a dearer market, must be deducted from the higher rate of

profit they were able to obtain there. It was clearly desirable that it should appear in the foreign market passage free, in order that the whole price might go into the pocket of the landlord. But who was to bear the expense of its transportation? Who but the public? And so these patriots, in 1689, hurried forward a statute, voting to themselves a bounty, to be paid out of the taxes, of five shillings for every quarter of corn which they sent out of the country, with a view to make it dearer at home. From 1693 to 1773, the people of these realms paid no less in direct money to these happy landowners than £6,237,176, as a remuneration for raising the price of wheat in England at least five shillings a quarter, the amount of the bounty, and often considerably more than that sum. "The King is said only to have consented to the measure temporarily, as a bribe to obtain from them the settlement of the land tax, in commutation of the feudal rents which had been surrendered—but in this he was disappointed."

These encroachments produced, as might have been anticipated, popular discontents—discontents which rose with the price of food. The oppressive laws were often suspended—and to guard against commotion an act was passed in 1738, imposing various punishments upon those who rioted to prevent the exportation of corn. The rapid increase of population, however, quietly did that which tumults and riots vainly attempted. Corn rose in price in proportion as consumers multiplied. It became more profitable to sell at home than to carry abroad. The bounty ceased to be operative. The restrictions on importation came into full play, and the public outcry rose to such a threatening height that a change was felt to be inevitable. Committees of inquiry were appointed, and in 1773, government was compelled to modify the corn laws. They prohibited exportation when wheat reached 44s. the quarter, and allowed importation at a nominal duty of sixpence, when the price was at or above 48s. The importations under this act became increasingly great, and in 1783, no less than 584,183 quarters came into the country from foreign markets—a large quantity for that period.

The law had been modified—the legislative body remained the same. The landlords clamoured against the policy of rendering the country dependent for food upon foreign supplies. Louder and louder waxed their complaints, until the outbreak of the French revolution. This was an auspicious moment for the class. They were enabled to turn the fears of the middle class to their own account, and to recover the ground lost in 1773. The price at which corn might be imported at the nominal duty of sixpence, was raised six shillings. When the price varied between 54s. and 50s. the quarter, the duty imposed was half-a-crown—below 50s. it was made prohibitory—namely 24s. 3d.

In 1804, another step was taken. The high prohibitory duty was made operative until wheat had reached a price higher by thirteen shillings than that fixed by the act of 1791—and in 1815, it was allowed a yet wider range; for under the protection of cannon and bands of military, and in the teeth of popular ferment threatening insurrection, our most disinterested legislators fixed the price of wheat at 80s. the quarter, by enacting a prohibitory duty upon foreign corn until that price could be obtained for our home produce. This it was quite evident could not long be maintained. Attempts were made in 1822 to relax somewhat the severity of the restrictive system—but they were substantially defeated by that well paid, over praised servant of the British public, Arthur, Duke of Wellington. In 1827 the present sliding scale was introduced. It is too well known to need description, and if an illustration of its wisdom be sought, we have only to look around us and see all the staple interests of the country blighted and withering away.

Here, then, is our first illustration of the mischief of class rule. We see the ancient policy of the country, which under the monarchical supremacy had prevailed for many centuries, namely, cheap food and abundance, suddenly reversed. The rents for landed estates payable to the crown in lieu of feudal service are got rid of. Exportation of corn is first allowed—then stimulated by a bounty. Importation is prevented so long as the population, pressing upon the means of subsistence, was sufficiently manageable to make the restriction safe. When at last this system can be endured no longer, and the wants of the people become imperative, importation is allowed at a nominal duty when wheat has reached 48s. the quarter. As external troubles tell upon the fears of the people, the maximum is removed forwards, and importation is prohibited below 63s. This again is raised to 80s.—and when monetary panics and commercial distress rendered the continuance of the prohibition up to this price impossible, our rulers give us a sliding scale, adown which we are rolling to irretrievable decay and beggary. Should we succeed in obtaining another modification of the corn laws, who can doubt, after hearing the strong testimony of history, that it will be given only with a view to temporary relief; or that the first favourable moment will be seized upon by the legislative body, for repairing the loss which the exigencies of the times may haply wring from them? Are they not looking after their own interests? Have not the framers of the reform bill avowed that the measure of 1832 was purposely framed so as to give the landed interest a preponderance in the councils of the nation? What else can we expect? To gratify our own taste for exclusive political power, we voluntarily put ourselves and our property into the power of a body, which from 1660 downwards has lived upon the life's blood of the people—and we wonder that they suck us dry. Fools! why do we not attack the root of the evil, and kindly relieve class legislators of their onerous responsibility by taking it upon ourselves?

A cabinet council was held at two o'clock on Thursday afternoon at the Foreign office. Sir Robert Peel and the Earl of Aberdeen arrived from Windsor castle to be present. The council sat two hours and a half.

A cabinet council was held at two o'clock on Saturday afternoon at the Foreign office. It was attended by Sir Robert Peel, the Duke of Wellington, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Wharncliffe, the Duke of Buckingham, Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Stanley, Sir James Graham, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Earl of Haddington, Earl of Ripon, Lord Fitzgerald, Sir Henry Hardinge, and Sir E. Knatchbull. The council sat two hours.

Another cabinet council was held at the Foreign office on Monday at 3 o'clock. At this council the royal speech on the opening of parliament was finally agreed upon, previous to submitting it for her Majesty's approbation, at the privy council to be holden for that purpose.

The Lord Chamberlain has received the usual official notice of the intention of her Majesty to open the ensuing session of parliament, on Thursday next, in person; and Mr Pulman, the deputy black rod, is daily engaged at the house of Lords in directing the necessary preparations, as the ceremony will derive an unusual splendour from the circumstance of the visit of the King of Prussia, who will be present.

Sir George Arthur had an interview with Lord Stanley on Saturday, at the Colonial office.

The committee of the baronetage for privileges commenced their meetings for the season on Saturday.

Dispatches from the governor of the Cape of Good Hope were received on Saturday, at the Colonial office.

The Bavarian minister and the Baroness de Cetto left town on Saturday, on a visit to her Majesty at Windsor castle.

The Russian minister transacted business at the Foreign office on Thursday.

A deputation from the India trade, including Sir G. Larpent, Mr Greyson, and Mr Arbuthnot, had an interview with the Earl of Ripon, on Wednesday, at the office of the Board of Trade.

Captain Trotter had an interview with Lord Stanley on Friday at the Colonial office.

Mr Backhouse, the Under-secretary in the Foreign office, has resigned. Mr Addington, the late minister in Spain, has been appointed in his place.—*Globe*.

The two vacant blue ribbons will be conferred upon the Duke of Beaufort and the Duke of Buckingham.—*Post*.

It was generally rumoured yesterday in political circles that the Duke of Buckingham had ceased to be connected with the administration. It will probably suggest itself to many of our readers that the retirement of his Grace from office may be attributed, in some degree, to the contemplated alterations in the corn laws, to the present system of which his Grace is warmly attached.—*Times* of Tuesday.

Last week's *Gazette* contained the official notification that the Queen had ordered a congé d'élire to pass the Great Seal, empowering the Dean and Chapter of Chichester cathedral to elect a bishop to the see, in the room of Dr Philip Nicholas Shuttleworth; and that the Queen had recommended Dr Ashurst Turner Gilbert to be elected.

On Thursday, the King of Prussia held a court for the reception of the foreign corps diplomatique. The French ambassador, the whole of the foreign ministers, and the different chargé d'affaires resident at this court, attended. The diplomatic corps having retired, his Majesty and suite were served with a *déjeuné*. At two o'clock the corporation of the city of London arrived at the palace to present an address of congratulation to his Majesty. The Lord Mayor in his state robes, and wearing his collar, came in his state coach drawn by six greys, preceded by the city marshals on horseback, and also by marshalsmen and footmen in state liveries. His lordship was followed by the sheriffs in state carriages, and by a numerous deputation.

On Friday, the King of Prussia drove to the Zoological gardens, Regent's park, on arriving at which the party alighted, and took a minute survey of all the animals and curiosities in this favourite place of amusement. After a sojourn of nearly an hour and a half, his Majesty proceeded to the residence of Sir Robert Peel, in Whitehall gardens. His Majesty, after the *déjeuner*, visited the National gallery. Before the King leaves London it is his intention to visit the Post office, the Bank of England, the Mint, and most of the other public buildings of the metropolis.

On Sunday morning, his Majesty the King of Prussia attended divine worship at St Paul's cathedral. The Lord Mayor arrived at the cathedral, accompanied by the sheriffs, shortly before 10 o'clock. His lordship was speedily followed by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, attended by Colonel Jones. His Majesty the King of Prussia and suite arrived in four of her Majesty's state carriages, and alighted at the dean's private door. His Majesty was there met by the Lord Mayor, the Bishop of London, the Bishop of Llandaff (dean of St Paul's), the venerable Archdeacon Hale, and a numerous body of the prebends, all in full canonicals. His Majesty was immediately escorted to a stall prepared for his reception in the choir, and which was situate immediately opposite that allotted to and occupied by the Lord Mayor. The cathedral was crowded in every part, but in the choir there was scarcely standing room. Service commenced immediately after his Majesty and his suite, the Duke of Cambridge, the Lord Mayor, and the dignitaries of the church, had reached the places destined for their occupation. The Rev. R. C. Packman read prayers, and the Rev. Dr. Knapp read the lessons of the day. The litany was chanted by the Rev. Mr. Lupton and the Rev. Mr. Povah; the Rev. Archdeacon Hale and the Dean of St Paul's (the Bishop of Llandaff), read the communion service, and the Bishop of London preached from the 6th chapter of Matthew, verse 14. "A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." Divine worship being concluded, his Majesty and suite, and the Duke of Cambridge, were escorted by the Lord Mayor and clerical dignitaries already mentioned to the carriage in waiting to convey them to the Mansion house, where they partook of a lunch with the Lord Mayor.

On Monday, the King of Prussia visited the new model prison at Battle bridge, and the prison of Newgate. In the evening he went to Drury lane theatre, and afterwards dined with the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland.

An account of the average aggregate amount of promissory notes payable to bearer on demand which have been in circulation in the United Kingdom, distinguishing those circulated by the bank of England, by private banks, and by joint-stock banks, in England and Wales, by the banks in Scotland, by the Bank of Ireland, and by all other banks in Ireland; and of the average amount of bullion in the bank of England, during the four weeks preceding the 8th day of January, 1842, pursuant to the act 4 and 5 Victoria, cap. 50.

ENGLAND—	
Bank of England	£16,293,000
Private banks	5,478,189
Joint-stock banks	3,022,197
SCOTLAND—	
Chartered private and joint-stock banks	3,070,075
IRELAND—	
Bank of Ireland	3,205,875
Private and joint-stock banks	2,515,677
Total	33,605,013
Bullion in the bank of England	£5,629,000

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

DEATHS FROM BURNING CHARCOAL.—A few days since the village of Woodford was thrown into alarm by the sudden death of Mrs Friday and her niece, who had incautiously placed burning charcoal in the bed-room in which they slept. What adds to the distress of the matter is, that when the awful event was communicated to an old lady, with whom the deceased lodged, it had such an effect upon her that she never spoke after, and died the following day.

THREE CHILDREN SUFFOCATED.—On Saturday last, inquests were held at Stubbington, near Titchfield, before Mr Longcroft, coroner, on view of the bodies of Mary Ann Ball, aged 6 years; Eliza Ball, aged 4; and Charles Ball, aged 2; three fine children of a labourer there. It appeared, from the evidence of Mary Ball, the mother, that about 11 on the morning before she went to Titchfield on an errand, but, previous to leaving home, put her children up-stairs, and fastened the stair-case door, which she had done on former occasions. She returned home in about an hour, and, on going up stairs, found the chamber full of smoke, and her three children all lying dead upon the bed. A tinder-box had been left up stairs, which the mother was not aware of, and there was a bag of hulls in one of the chambers, which had been ignited, and was then smouldering. The tinder-box had evidently been used. Verdict—"Accidental Death."—*Hampshire Telegraph*.

MORE DEATHS BY BURNING.—Since Saturday no fewer than four accidents by fire were admitted into the London Hospital, three of which number have terminated fatally. The first case was that of William Ross, five years of age, whose parents reside at No. 1, Starch street, Albion street, Bethnal green, who was so dreadfully burnt all over his body, by his clothes catching fire during the temporary absence of his parents, that he expired in the hospital on Sunday morning. The next case was that of Margaret Gowing, four years of age, whose father is a policeman, 354, belong to the K division, residing in Harbour square, Commercial road, who died in a short time after her admission into the hospital, from the extensive injuries she had received by her clothes taking fire. The third case was that of a remarkably fine little girl, named Sarah Ross, 11 years of age, whose father is a poor weaver, residing at No. 3, Butler street, Bethnal green. On Monday morning a respectable female, named Abrey, 38 years of age, residing at East Ham, Essex, was brought to the above hospital, being severely burnt about her neck and shoulders, by her clothes accidentally catching fire.

FIRE AT THE REFORM CLUB HOUSE.—On Friday afternoon considerable alarm prevailed in the vicinity of the Reform Club house, Pall Mall, in consequence of another fire breaking out in that magnificent building, and it threatened for some time the most serious results. The firemen on ascending to the roof, found a great portion was in flames and gaining rapid progress. Fortunately, the firemen obtained plenty of water from the pipes of a steam engine at the basement of the building, and, by cutting off communication, prevented the flames from extending, but it was not effected until much damage had taken place.

FATAL COACH ACCIDENT.—The Rev. Richard Jones, a minister of the independent persuasion, was killed last week by the overturning of the Welshpool coach. His wife was severely injured, and others of the passengers were much hurt.

SHIPWRECKS.—Accounts have been received by the authorities at Lloyd's of the wreck of the ship Sophia, of London, which unfortunately happened on the night of the 2d of Oct. last, and was attended with most lamentable loss of life. She was on her voyage from New Zealand to Kiapara, and had on board a rich cargo. It occurred at about twelve o'clock at night, during a tremendous gale of wind, off the Bay of Islands. The master, Captain Harrison, and ten seamen saved themselves by clinging to the rigging and portions of the wreck, but the remainder, consisting of twenty-eight seamen and passengers, and two women, met with a watery grave. The vessel is said to have been worth £5000; but whether she is insured or not it is not known. On Saturday other accounts were received respecting the loss of three other ships—the schooner Montagnaise, Captain Wilson, of Belfast; the Glengarry, from St Thomas's, and a brig unknown. The Montagnaise was wrecked on the night of the 7th of Jan., and all on board perished, amounting to eight persons, and the master, Mr Wilson. The vessel was discovered on the following morning, bottom upwards, on the sands at the south-west point of the islands above mentioned, and part of the cargo, consisting of barley, hides, and tallow, has been washed ashore. The owners are insured. The Glengarry was wrecked on the 13th of December, on the Turk Islands, and the un-

known brig is supposed to have gone down off the Gravelines Lights, with the whole of the crew. Respecting the latter vessel, her wreck was discovered by the crew of her Majesty's steamer Widgeon, who endeavoured to trace out her name, but were unable.

SUICIDE.—On Friday morning the neighbourhood of the New cut, Lambeth, presented a scene of extraordinary excitement in consequence of a Mr Bardwell, a greengrocer, who resided there, in an extensive way of business, having cut his throat. The unfortunate man got up at an early hour, and procuring a razor drew it across his throat with such force as to cut through the windpipe. A surgeon was immediately called in, but before his arrival he breathed his last.

EARTHQUAKE IN CENTRAL AMERICA.—An earthquake has recently occurred in Central America which seems to have been unsurpassed in the extent of its ravages for many years past. The scene of this terrible calamity was Costa Rica (*i. e.* the Rich Coast), one of the states of Central America. It is bounded on the south-east by Veragua, and extends from the Spanish Main to the Pacific Ocean, east and west, comprehending the western part of the high land that divides the plains of Panama from those of Nicaragua. It is a very mountainous district, and but little known to Europeans. It is only inhabited in its western districts, those bordering on the republic of New Granada being either unoccupied or in possession of independent Indians. Sugar, timber, and Indian corn are exported to Peru and Chili; and the district is said to contain some considerable mines of the precious metals. San Jose, the capital, contains about 16,000 inhabitants, and the ravages of the earthquake here were of the most heart-rending nature, a very large number of lives having been lost, and property to a great amount destroyed, by this fearful visitation.

THE SLAVE TRADE.—Her Majesty's brig Waterwitch, Lieut. Matson, commanding, captured on the 20th of October last, the slave vessel, Don Francisco, fitted for receiving slaves. On the 28th of the same month, she captured the notorious slaver the Eralinda, with a cargo valued at upwards of £4,000, including a London built carriage that cost £400, and a pair of handsome greys, intended as a bribe from the slave merchant (owner of the prize) for the purchase of slaves. The prize was sent to Sierra Leone for condemnation. The following is an extract of a letter from the Cape of Good Hope, dated Nov. 6, 1841:—Her Majesty's ship Fantome returned to Simon's Bay on the 24th ult., after a cruise on the coast of Angola for the suppression of the slave trade, having had the Brisk and the Waterwitch under her orders; during which period they have captured 33 slave vessels, and liberated 3,427 negroes; namely, Fantome, 16 vessels and 1,340 negroes; Brisk, 10 vessels and 1,136 negroes; and Waterwitch, 9 vessels and 987 negroes.

THE COFFEE TRADE.—A movement is just now being made in the coffee trade for a modification of the duties levied on the various descriptions; and the promoters have, it is said, already prepared a petition to the President of the Board of Trade, embodying their wishes on the subject. The petition has received the signatures of all the leading houses in the trade. The petitioners consider that the reduction of the present duties levied on coffee is not only necessary to the existence and prosperity of the trade, but also that the revenue would be greatly increased by the alteration, and show that since the duty has been reduced from 1s. per lb. to 6d. per lb., there has been an increase in the collection by the customs and excise of nearly double the amount originally collected. The scale of duties proposed is 3d. per lb. on certified British plantation coffee; 3d. per lb. on Mysore, which is stated to be in reality British plantation; 4d. per lb. on coffee imported from British ports within the limits of the East India Company's charter, without a certificate of growth; and 7d. per lb. on all foreign coffee direct; which is a reduction of one-half of the existing duties, except in the case of Mysore, which is reduced one-third, to bring it on a level with the admission of the produce of our colonies.

THE TARIFF.—An important change took place in the duties on imports on Saturday week. In conformity with the compromise act on all articles paying an *ad valorem* duty of more than 28 per cent., a further reduction of 3-10ths of the excess is to be made. Thus the duty on merchandise, paying in 1833, 25 per cent., and at present 23, will, till the 30th of June next, be 21½ per cent. On merchandise paying 30 per cent. in 1833 (now 26), it will be 23 per cent.; on that paying 50 per cent. (now 38), it will be 29 per cent.; on all articles paying a specific duty exceeding 50 per cent. *ad valorem*, 7-10ths of the excess is to be deducted. The effect of these several diminutions of duties has been thus illustrated:—The duty upon woollens is 50 per cent. of the value thereof at the place of exportation. Four-tenths of the excess of 20 per cent. having been already deducted, woollens now pay 38 per cent. Three-tenths to be taken off on the 1st of January next, will leave the duty at 29 per cent.; and on and after the 1st of July, 1842, the duty, under existing laws, will be 20 per cent. upon the value of woollens. This example will serve for other articles subject to *ad valorem* duties.

TOWN & THE COUNTRY.—From the third annual report of the Registrar-general, it will be found that, selecting the metropolis and 24 of the principal town and city districts, and comparing the registration returns from these districts with similar returns obtained from counties containing a less dense population, in which the inhabitants are chiefly engaged in agriculture, Mr Farr has ascertained that the mean duration of life in the two classes of districts differs nearly 17 years, the average of life being 55 years in the country, and only 38 in the towns. The density of the population in the country districts referred to, compared to that in the towns, is as 10 to 245; the mortality as 100 to 144.

TYPHUS FEVER.—It cannot be too widely known that nitrous acid gas possesses the property of destroying the contagion of the typhus fever, and certainly of preventing its spread. By the following simple method the gas may be produced at a very trifling expense:—Place a little powdered saltpetre in a saucer, and pour on it as much oil of vitriol as will cover it; a copious discharge of acid gas will instantly take place, the quantity of which may be regulated by lessening or increasing the quantity of the materials.

POSTAGE ENVELOPES.—A correspondent of the *Times* calls the attention of persons who in writing letters of business use envelopes, to the importance of their writing, upon the sheet enclosed, the address of

the party to whom the communication is made. The address being written upon the envelope only, the document cannot be made available in matters of legal proof, which is frequently the object of both the sender and the receiver.

TO NEWSPAPER READERS.—Newspapers are made much more clear in the print, and more pleasant in the handling, by a common smoothing iron being passed over them when they are damp from the press, and by being dried in that manner. In this way the effect of hot-pressing is produced with two or three minutes' labour, and the sheet rendered much less liable to be creased and soiled, than if opened and read in the usual manner.

A SHAM CANNOT COUNTERFEIT A REALITY.—A man passes for what he is worth. Very idle is all curiosity concerning other people's estimate of us, and equally idle is all fear of remaining unknown. If a man know that he can do anything—that he can do it better than any one else—he has a pledge of the acknowledgment of that fact by all persons. The world is full of judgment days; and into every assembly that a man enters, in every action he attempts, he is gauged and stamped. In every troop of boys that whoop and run in each yard and square, a new comer is well and accurately weighed in the balance in the course of a few days, and stamped with his right number, as if he had undergone a trial of his strength, speed, and temper. A stranger comes from a distant school, with better dress, with trinkets in his pockets, with airs and pretension: an old boy sniffs thereat, and says to himself, "It's of no use, we shall find him out to-morrow." "What hath he done?" is the divine question which searches men, and transpierces every false reputation. A fop may sit in any chair of the world, nor be distinguished for his hour from Homer and Washington; but there can never be any doubt concerning the respective ability of human beings, when we seek the truth. Pretension may sit still, but cannot act. Pretension never feigned an act of real greatness. Pretension never wrote an Iliad, never drove back Xerxes, nor Christianised the world, nor abolished slavery.—R. W. Emerson.

THE FATAL DELUSION.—The most reckless sinner against his own conscience has always in the back ground the consolation, that he will go on in this course only this time, or only so long, but that at such a time he will amend. We may be assured that we do not stand clear with our own consciences, so long as we determine or project, or even hold it possible, at some future time to alter our course of action. He who is certain of his own conduct feels perfectly confident that he cannot change it, nor the principles upon which it is founded—that, on this point, his freedom is gone—that he is fixed for ever in these resolves.—Fichte.

DEFINITION OF THE TITLE "LORD."—"The etymology of the word lord," says J. Coates, "is well worth observing, for it was composed of illaf, 'a loaf of bread,' and ford, 'to give or afford;' so that illaford, uow lord, implies 'a giver of bread,' because in those ages such great men kept extraordinary houses and fed the poor, for which reason they were called 'givers of bread,' a thing now much out of date, great men being fond of retaining the title, but few regarding the practice for which it was first given."

A CONVENIENT CAT.—A short time ago, a poor Irishman applied at the churchwardens' office of Manchester for relief; and upon some doubt being expressed as to whether he was a proper object for parochial charity, he enforced his suit with much earnestness. "Och, your honour," said he, "sure I'll be starved long since but for my cat." "But for what?" asked his astonished interrogator. "My cat," rejoined the Irishman. "Your cat! how so?" "Sure, your honour, I sould her eleven times over for sixpence a time, and she was always at home before I'd get there myself."

NARRATIVE OF MADISON JEFFERSON, TWENTY-TWO YEARS A SLAVE IN NEW VIRGINIA, U. S. A.

(Continued from p. 28.)

He reached Cleveland, Ohio, when he was betrayed by a mulatto man and woman, lodged in the gaol, and carried back by his young master to the scene of his stripes and toil. On arriving with him at the estate, the latter told him that "he might start again as soon as he liked, for he would follow him into hell itself, and bring him back." This young man had obtained the honourable epithet of the "Nigger-hunter," from his success in tracking the poor runaways, and was often requested to undertake the re-capture by neighbouring planters, for which purpose he frequently employed blood-hounds. It may be supposed that Madison's punishment on this occasion was a severe one: he received one hundred and fifty lashes with the cow-hide, and had brine poured upon his back, which was in a very lacerated state. In relating this part of his narrative, he made a touching allusion to the kind offices of an affectionate sister, in ministering to his sufferings. After this infliction, he was placed in the dark dungeon for two days, and then made to walk up and down before the house in chains, with a bell upon his head, which is fixed in the following manner:—a band of iron goes round the waist with upright bands connecting it with the collar, from whence two other upright pieces terminate in a cross bar, to the centre of which, beyond the reach of the wearer, a bell is suspended; this degrading instrument he wore for several days, and was then sent to the field, being locked up and chained nightly for five or six months, by which time he was supposed to be cured of running away, and had promised on his knees not to repeat the attempt. The love of liberty, however, was not to be subdued by all the harsh treatment he had received; not above twelve months had elapsed from the termination of his punishment, before he once more set out. On a Sunday night, with nothing but the piece of bread which was supplied him for his supper, he took a last look at the scene of all his sufferings, and, praying to God for help, he walked on at a brisk rate, till the dawn of the morning warned him to seek the friendly cover of the woods. In this way he traveled between a fortnight and three weeks—hungry and thirsty, he was at times ready to faint—he journeyed in fear and trembling, the sound of a "cracking stick" (to use his own expression) "making him afraid;" he was frequently two and even three days without food, not daring to approach any but the meanest houses, when, with a bridle on his shoulder, which he brought from the estate, he would inquire "if they had seen a horse go that way?" and then beg a

morsel of bread and a cup of water, which was rarely refused. "Hope," thus from time to time strengthened, "sustained the head of perseverance till success crowned it." After traveling between a fortnight and three weeks, he began to fall in with abolitionists and quakers, and now his way by their help and directions was made more easy. A kind friend on one occasion wrote the direction of the road in large Roman characters on a piece of paper, telling him when he came to a finger post, to see if the writing corresponded therewith, and if so, to follow that route. In five weeks from leaving the estate he reached the boundary, and, not being able to cross, he lay concealed in the woods for two days, when by the kindness of Providence, he met a gentleman who, without asking many questions, suspecting probably how the case stood, offered to pay his fare, and took him to the ferry boat. The ferryman began closely to interrogate him as to his business, &c., but was silenced by Madison's benefactor remarking that, as long as the fare was paid, he had no right to ask any questions. In a few minutes the toilsome pilgrimage of the subject of our narrative was happily consummated, and he stood erect—a freeman upon his broken fetters!

Not long after this joyful event, being in the employ of a Canadian farmer, he met this ferryman, who charged him with being a runaway slave, to which the latter boldly but imprudently replied—"It is true, but I am now a freeman, and you cannot touch me." The other surlily rejoined with an oath—"If I had known it, I would not have brought you over; but we may get you across the lines yet, as many of you have been before." Madison thinks that this man gave information of his being there. An advertisement offering 1500 dollars reward had preceded him to Buffalo—and many, instigated by the sordid love of gain, would have gladly secured him, but he was mercifully delivered out of their hands.

For two years he was employed by different farmers, from whom he brings testimonials of good conduct; and during this period, by the kindness of a little English boy of twelve years of age, who used to sit up teaching him after work-hours till twelve and one o'clock, and by attending an evening school, he learnt to read tolerably well in the New Testament; and he appears most desirous of improving himself in every way. For a long time after arriving in Canada, he used frequently to dream that he was again in the hands of his master; on awaking in sudden alarm, he has found his pillow wet with tears from the anguish of his mind, and, when returning consciousness convinced him of his safety, his mind would be filled with thankfulness and praise to his great Deliverer—"I don't know what to do I feel so thankful," is his own simple but expressive language. It is most interesting to hear him speak of these feelings, as well as of the deep and painful anxiety with which he contemplates the sad condition of his mother and family, who still "sigh by reason of the bondage," and whose sufferings will probably be aggravated in revenge for his escape.

The fear of being kidnapped and carried back into slavery, as many of the refugees have been by a set of degraded outcasts who prowl about for that purpose, induced him at length to come to England with the gentleman already alluded to, who treated him with great kindness, and from whom he has excellent testimonials.

He is evidently a young man of considerable intelligence, and ten minutes' conversation with him would convince every unprejudiced person of the falsehood of the aspersions thrown upon the African character for intelligence, as if in justification of the foul wrongs that have been heaped upon them. There is a tone, too, about him of simple unaffected piety. "I always thought," he said, "that we slaves should pay more regard to religion than any, because we were bad off in this world, and therefore ought to take care of the world to come." While speaking of some of the ill-treatment which he had received from his master, he was reminded that it was his duty to forgive him. "I do," he replied, "else how could I hope to be forgiven," and added, "I would be glad to see him here; and I would work for him for wages, as well as for anybody else." What a paradise would this world be, if all its inhabitants possessed the spirit of this poor negro!

R. J. R.

CAPTURE OF A SLAVE-SHIP.

The following is an extract of a letter from a young gentleman belonging to Ayrshire, surgeon on board her Majesty's ship *Acorn*, dated St Helena, Sept. 1, 1841:—

"In a former letter I think I mentioned our capturing the noted brigantine *Gabriel*, with her cargo of slaves. I have it now in my power to apprise you of another capture which we made on the 17th of August last: viz., the *Anna*, with 500 slaves on board.

"I was ordered aboard the *Anna* to take a list of the number of the captives, and to classify them under the following heads: viz., males, females, sick, and healthy. As soon as I set foot on her deck, the tokens of the miserable condition of the poor creatures met my eye in every quarter. Filth of all descriptions was strewed around the deck, and the stench arising therefrom was almost overpowering. I have never encountered anything like the miasmatic and unwholesome vapours which arose from the dens where the slaves were huddled together, so close as scarcely to leave breathing room. In the after part of the vessel, called the cabin, a place measuring about 16 feet by 9, and which was allotted to the females, no fewer than 217 of these miserable beings were packed. When I looked down into the crowded mass, and saw the manner in which they were wedged together, it put me in mind of the celebrated black hole of Calcutta, and the miseries endured by the poor prisoners there on a particular occasion. To suppose that such a number of human beings could be squeezed into such a narrow space almost exceeds belief; but it was indeed the case.

"The women and children wore ornaments composed of beads, on the neck, wrists, and other parts of their bodies. Several of the females in this sty had infants in their arms, which they tended and soothed with a maternal affection which was quite exemplary, considering their situation and the privations they were compelled to suffer; indeed, few civilised mothers could have done the same, if placed in a similar situation.

"In the fore part of the vessel, reaching from the mainmast to the fore-castle, about 300 males were confined. This part of the vessel was called the gaol, and was 50 feet in length by 27 feet in breadth, the roof being about 3½ feet in height. In this place, which was in a most

filthy and impure state, the above number of human beings were huddled together, without enough room to lay themselves at length; and forced to keep in a sitting position from the lowness of the deck above.

"In this situation they spent the days and nights that were to give place, not to freedom, but to the slavery which the fiends, their masters, should find opportunity to entail upon them for life. It struck me, however, that their general appearance, even in the more than uncomfortable circumstances in which they were placed, betokened the greatest contentment; some of them were even quite cheerful and happy looking. They were fed twice a day—at 9 o'clock in the morning, and again at three o'clock in the afternoon.

"Their food in the morning consisted of boiled beans, with which a little flour had been mixed. A vessel containing a quantity of this stuff was placed among them, and every one might eat as much as he pleased. The afternoon meal consisted of flour and warm water mixed together in the form of a thin gruel, which was also served *ad libitum*, with an allowance of two ounces of beef to each. The males, who were from 4 to 20 years of age, were what would be called in the market a splendid lot. The females, whose ages might run from 3 to 20, with the exception of three infants, were also well-looking, and equally marketable with the men. Notwithstanding their being cooped up in the manner described, only 26 out of the whole were reported sick. We ran the vessel and her human cargo into Rio de Janeiro, where the latter would be taken aboard the slave ship there, and find good treatment. The government allows £5 for each slave captured, and a certain sum per ton for the vessels, which in many cases are run ashore, and cut up and sold."

SLAVERY IN CUBA.—ENGLAND AND SPAIN.

The following note has been addressed by the British ambassador at Madrid to the Spanish government, relative to the slaves in the island of Cuba:—

British Legation in Spain. Madrid, Dec. 17. 1840.

"Sir,—Notwithstanding that the traffic in slaves under the flag of Spain has considerably diminished, in virtue of the treaty of June 15, 1835, between Great Britain and Spain, nevertheless the dealers in slaves have hoisted other colours for the protection of their ships, by which means new importations of blacks from Africa have continued to supply the island of Cuba.

"It has been thought, in spite of this, that these abuses might be put a stop to by conferring on the mixed commission sitting at the Havannah the power to investigate into the cases of the negroes existing at Havannah in slavery, and declare whether they have been imported or not into the island subsequent to the 30th of October, 1820, and to decide whether the said negroes should be emancipated.

"With this object her Majesty's government has prepared the draught of a convention, which I have been ordered to propose to the Spanish government.

"I some months since submitted a copy of the said convention to M. Perez de Castro, and his excellency promised me that the matter should be immediately taken into consideration.

"I have, therefore, the honour of now submitting to your excellency another copy of the draught of the above-mentioned convention, the object of which I some time since explained to your excellency.

"Her most catholic Majesty's government has invariably professed the same lively wishes as those which influence Great Britain in co-operating in all the measures already proposed for the abolition of this abominable traffic, and notwithstanding it is an unquestionable fact, that instead of being lessened or somewhat modified, in consequence of the restrictive measures heretofore adopted, the evil increases in the Spanish colonies, which position is unanswerably confirmed by the progressive increase of the slave population.

"In order to remedy this great abuse and violation of the existing treaties, it is proposed to confer on the mixed commission the power of enforcing the national law established to that effect, elevating it to a degree of sufficiency and vigour that shall place it in a condition to effectually destroy the evil; because by preventing the demand for victims their shipment from Africa will be checked. It is only necessary to convince the purchasers, as well as the owners of African slaves, that they cannot reckon on possessing their illegal acquisitions with impunity, in order to prevent their continuing to employ their capitals in this traffic, because they are no longer a commodity which can be offered for sale in the market. This is the only way of compelling people to abandon a traffic which can no longer yield advantages.

"All these objects will be attained by means of the stipulations in the proposed convention.

"It may, perhaps, be objected that this convention might produce discontent, and even promote insurrection among those slaves who, in consequence of the place of their birth, or the date of their importation, would have no claim to be emancipated; but in respect of said objection, should it be made, I must observe to your excellency that, in the plan proposed, it is not intended to interfere with the Creole population, or with such of the slaves as were introduced into the island previous to the 30th of October, 1820. Besides, the proceedings for declaring the emancipation of negroes are to be carried into effect individual by individual, and not by whole cargoes; by which means the execution of the convention will in reality be much less alarming in its totality, or in its individual importance, than the proceedings sanctioned by the already existing treaties.

"It is more than twenty years since the mixed commission sat at the Havannah, during which period frequent discussions have arisen that have affected the liberty of whole cargoes of negroes, without there being a solitary instance wherein the Captain-general of Cuba found fault with the proceedings, which circumstance leads to the supposition that the proposal for the extension of powers to the mixed commission may be acceded to without risk or inconvenience.

"Whilst submitting all which to your excellency, I must add that her catholic majesty will acquire great and lasting glory by consenting to the proposed convention, putting a term, by its means, to a practice that is repugnant as well as contrary to humanity.

"I avail myself of this opportunity for renewing, &c.

"ARTHUR ASTON.

"His Excellency Don Joaquim Maria de Ferrer &c.

LITERATURE.

Poems by the late John Bethune; with a Sketch of the Author's Life, by his Brother. London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co.

THE first edition of this volume was most favourably received—it was indebted for much of its circulation, as the works of all unknown authors must be, to the unbought notices of the periodical press. By this means, adventitious publicity is given; and if a book thus advertised has in it the vitality of genius, it will soon work its way into the hands and hearts of all who are able to appreciate it. This was the case in the present instance; nor are we at all surprised at the generous zeal which was eager to honour the "Life and Poems of the late John Bethune" with the earliest and kindest notice, nor at the subsequent popularity which the intrinsic merits of the volume have obtained for it, so as to render a second edition necessary in the brief space of a few months. Who could read the life without sympathy and admiration? We have heard of the first lion pawing himself out of the earth. This fable is nothing as compared with the real, and strenuous, and persevering efforts of this Scottish peasant, and his equally heroic brother, to emerge from, and to clear their intellect of, the superincumbent weight of adverse circumstances which threatened to crush alike their physical and moral nature. We do not wonder that one of the critics of the work, on its first appearance, should say "the heroic fortitude and self-devotion of an ancient Grecian resided beneath the thatch roof of a cottage on Tay side." We shall not abridge the narrative, nor give events in their consecutive order, but merely present our readers with a few characteristic incidents, and we doubt not that they will soon procure the book for themselves.

"During the winter of 1823-4, to assist in supporting himself, he broke stones on the road between Lindores and Newburgh, along with his biographer. He was then under thirteen years of age; and when, from the intense cold which occasionally prevailed, and the lack of motion to which his employment subjected him, his legs and feet were almost frozen, instead of complaining, and making this an excuse for running home, as a number of boys would have done, I was frequently amused in no ordinary degree by the droll observations which he made, and the wild gambols to which he sometimes had recourse to restore the natural warmth of his benumbed extremities. From his father having been subject to disease of the bowels for a number of years previous, and the numerous expedients, all attended with expense, which had been resorted to for the purpose of restoring him, the family were at this time considerably in debt. Young as he was, he had already caught that spirit of independence which characterised him through life; and his enthusiasm now pointed forward to the time when we would be able to redeem these debts. To accomplish this object there was no personal suffering, and no sacrifice of boyish pleasure, which he would not willingly have encountered; and thus he persevered at an occupation, from which, in winter, even full-grown men might be excused for shrinking.—pp. 26, 27.

From his occupation as a common labourer, after having suffered much by illness, and expended his little savings obtained by the most rigid economy, his biographer tells us that he looked forward with the cheering prospect of rising above poverty, and keeping himself independent, when a new misfortune, which, though it fell not on him, affected him deeply as falling on a friend, was now impending.

"On the 11th of November, 1829, while the writer of this sketch was employed in blasting rock, a quantity of gunpowder exploded prematurely, and throwing him into the air, left him nearly lifeless. To see an only brother with his head and face scorched, blackened, swollen, and otherwise mangled to such an extent as to preclude for a time all hopes of recovery, might have affected older men; and young as the subject of the present notice then was, and warmly attached to his few relations, to him this must have been a severe trial. While there are others to whom I would even here pause to acknowledge my obligations, to him I owe a still deeper debt of gratitude. To his untiring benevolence, and warm affection upon this occasion, I can bear ample testimony. Patiently did he watch by my bedside till it was supposed I was out of danger; and then, to provide for the exigencies of the family, which now depended upon him alone for support, he wrought at his former occupation by day, and took his turn to watch by night, till I could be left with safety. The result of this accident was a heavy expenditure, occasioned by distress, and four months of inability to labour; at the end of which period, from his exertions in behalf of his unfortunate brother, he again found himself in debt."—pp. 36, 37.

A man determined to educate himself, who, at the age of eighteen, had to acquire a correct orthography, doomed at the same time to the severest manual labour, could luxuriate in poetry; aye! and beyond this, could command with his scanty means the more exquisite luxury of doing good.

"As another evidence of his industry, and a proof that the "miserable earnings," as he termed them, were not squandered upon idle indulgences, it may be mentioned, that from them, previous to November, 1832, about 14*l.* had been again saved. In the spring of 1830, the reader will recollect that he was rather in debt; little more than two years had passed since then; and when it is known that his earnings seldom exceeded 19*l.* in any year—that, besides himself, he had at least one of his parents to support—that he was in the habit of giving considerable sums in charity, and, perhaps, still more for books—some idea may be formed of his personal expenditure, which could not possibly exceed 7*l.* per annum, food, clothing, and every thing included.

"Having thus mentioned his little savings, I hope the reader will pardon me for stating the manner in which they were expended. On the 8th of November, 1832, the writer of this sketch was once more subjected to the effects of gunpowder, by an accident in a quarry; and before he was able to resume his work, the last farthing of the 14*l.* was gone, and the author of the following poems, and the narrator of his story, were left to begin the world again, with only the clothes on their backs; and these, having already seen severe service, promised soon to leave them. While I would apologise to the reader for troubling him with these particulars, I must confess that it gives me a melancholy pleasure to be able to bring them forward as a proof of the never-failing kindness, disinterested benevolence, and unshrinking and unconquerable perseverance of one so little known."—pp. 46, 47.

All this time, under the greatest possible disadvantages, he was reading and writing poetry, accumulating and expending his intellectual earnings with vigour and delight.

When only seventeen years of age he had planned and wished to write a didactic poem, which, as he intended, should resemble in some particulars Cowper's "Task"; that is, he was to treat in it any subject which struck his fancy, showing only a natural transition from one to another. This was to have been entitled "Vigils of the Night." This project, however, he relinquished, from a conviction of the unprofitable nature of his employment in an age when poetry is so little thought of. Of his style and capabilities for such an undertaking the following, which is the opening of the poem, will give the reader some idea:—

" 'Tis summer; and the flowery fields are fair,
The trees are green, and calm the gentle air:
Of all the seasons of the varying year,
This to the rural muse shall still be dear;
For now her vigil of the night grows sweet,
With arching leaves aloft, and roses at her feet."

" 'Tis night: the high and holy heavens above
Are bright with majesty, and blue with love.
All, all is silent! even the zephyry breeze
Hath ceased to sport among the rustling trees;
The lake, unrippled, like the good man's breast,
Reflects each image by the skies impress'd;
The long grass in the meadow gently bends
Beneath the dew which silently descends;
The stars are twinkling, and the sober moon
Gilds with her lustre all the leaves of June;
While lichen-cover'd rock, and glassy stream,
Grow doubly sweet beneath her hallowed beam,
Which slanting softly down the mossy dell,
Unfolds a scene where eremite might dwell;
And from the solemn solitude around
Draws food for thought, aerial or profound.
Sparkling o'er pebbly shelves, the gurgling rill
Makes dreamy music to the listening hill;
And rises into cones of foamy snow,
Where'er a stone obstructs its murmuring flow."

"Above the drooping elms, which sadly guard
The dreary precincts of the damp church-yard,
Yon hoary spire points to the cloudless skies,
As if to teach our grovelling thoughts to rise;
And yon old ruin—roofless, rent, and gray—
Seems warning mortals of their own decay.
How many ages, barbarous and rude,
Upon that bank of daisies hath it stood?
How many changing masters hath it seen,
In "pride of place," perambulate its green?
How many funerals, to its gothic gate,
Hath it beheld approach in gloomy state?
How many beings more, not yet alive,
Shall these dilapidated walls survive? &c."

"From this the author naturally passes to some observations on the shortness and uncertainty of human life; then to the happiness of that state of being which exists beyond the grave, and those doubts with which sceptics have endeavoured to darken the prospects of humanity. He next proceeds to the authenticity of scripture, and brings forward arguments to prove it from those prophecies which have been already literally fulfilled. Tyre, Babylon, and Nineveh—what they once were, and what they now are, together with the predictions concerning them, and the events which produced those awful changes which have passed over them—all figure in his descriptions. The following extract concerning Tyre, may serve as a specimen of his descriptive powers, and also of the manner in which the subjects, generally, are treated:—

Where now is Tyre?—alas! the fatal shock
Of war's dread earthquake hath convulsed her rock.
Where now her mighty walls?—her palace, where?
What now remains of all her glory there?
Alas! the sea-wash'd crag and barren beach,
An awfully impressive lesson teach;
And, from that isle—of wealth and power the grave—
Make cold reply to ocean's colder wave!"

"As prophesied—the fierce Chaldean host
Appear'd in time upon her fated coast;
And many a warlike nation follow'd fast,
Haunting her shores with ruin to the last.
O'er her breach'd walls the conquering Persian pour'd
His bloody bands, and horde succeeded horde.
Next, Philip's son, the master of the world,
Against her gates his mighty engines hurl'd—
Working his way through the surrounding deep,
He piled her sons in many a purple heap;
And bore the residue along the waves,
Where late they reign'd, to be the victor's slaves.
Then the all-conquering Roman fiercely came
To wrap her loftiest pinnacles in flame;
And scarcely had the storm dispelled the smoke,
And bleach'd the ashes from his blacken'd rock,
When came the savage Saracen—the worst
Of all the foes with which she had been cursed;
For wheresoe'er his horrid power extends,
The arts expire and Mercy's triumph ends.
Nor these alone, but many a warlike band
Of fierce Crusaders to the Holy Land,
O'er her dark walls their Christian banner cast,
And scourged her ruin'd remnant to the last:
Till awful Alphix thundering, with the pride
Of Egypt's youthful heroes at his side,
Advanced, the red-cross warriors to oppose,
And brought her tale to an eternal close!"

"The nakedness of Nature, bleak and bare
Is all that now remains to sadden there.
The waters of the tideless ocean drank
Her spoils, and sung her requiem as she sank;
Her lofty palaces and temples high,
Crush'd into dust, choking her channels, lie;
Upon her mart, where many a nation met,
The lonely fisher dries his dripping net,
And breaks, with puny bark and tiny oar,
The calm, where laden fleets her products bore;
And, save the wind's low dirge and sea-fowl's cry,
And waters' splash when stormy waves are high,
No sounds are heard—no visitors intrude,
To stir the oblivious scene where Tyre stood! &c."—pp. 49-52

But we must close our notice of this very interesting book with—

out any other reference to the narrative and the poems, than is conveyed in the following extract of a letter from James Montgomery to the publishers:—

"Here, however, industry, uprightness, self-denial, self-sacrifice, with contentment and resignation to the Divine will, mark the character from the beginning to the end of life in John Bethune. Nothing can be more touching, true, and clear than the evidence of these virtues—rare in combination at all times, and rarest in alliance with the poetic temperament—as they are manifested in this faithful record, by his affectionate biographer. The perusal of the narrative as illustrating the poems, and the perusal of the poems as illustrating the narrative, has awakened in my mind more and deeper sympathy of a peculiar kind than the memoir of any other poet of the class in which Bethune flourished—for flourished I will say; and far and wide may his song and history be read for the benefit of "all sorts and conditions of men," that pride in the highest places may be humbled, and humility in the lowest exalted. * * * Let the volume go forth in its own integrity; it needs no further voucher of the author's merits."—p. 12.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Extract from a letter addressed to Mr F. R. Lees, by the Rev. James Cox, Wesleyan missionary:—"St Kitts, Nov. 11, 1841.—You will be happy to learn that the principle of total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors is progressing in these parts. In our church in this island, comprising 3,500 members, the most pious, respectable, and intelligent, including all our leaders, local preachers, stewards, &c., are teetotalers; and this is one reason, among others, that we are able to propose to our missionary committee in London to support this mission without any expense to the parent society after the present year! The work of God has spread among us greatly during the past year or two; we have had an accession of more than 500 members to our churches; and (which is still better) teetotalism mightily contributes to their stability and purity. O, when will Christian ministers generally awake to the importance of this principle?"

The new Independent chapel, James' street, Blackburn, which seats about 900 persons, was opened on Thursday, the 27th ult, when two eloquent and appropriate discourses were preached, in the morning and evening of that day, by the Rev. Dr Raffles, of Liverpool, and the Rev. Dr Fletcher, of London, formerly the much respected pastor of the older congregation. The Rev. R. Slate, of Preston, in prayer, dedicated the edifice to divine worship; and the Rev. Alex. Fraser, the present minister of the other chapel, recognised the new church, formed by a friendly secession from the old, and commended it to God in prayer, after which a very suitable address was delivered by the Rev. D. T. Carson, of Preston. The congregations, particularly that in the evening, were large, and the services excited lively interest. The collections amounted to upwards of 300*l.*, which sum was expected to be augmented at the services of the following Sunday, when the Rev. R. W. Hamilton, of Leeds, and the Rev. A. Fraser, were to preach.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, January 28.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act 6 and 7 Wm IV., cap. 85:—
The catholic chapel, Keighley, Yorkshire. G. Spencer, superintendent registrar.
Oxford place chapel, Leeds, Yorkshire. G. Rawson, jun., superintendent registrar.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

AARONS, BENJAMIN, Knowles court, Doctors' commons, furrier.

BANKRUPTS.

ARTHUR, JOHN and DAVID, Neath, Glamorganshire, ironmasters, to surrender Feb. 18, March 11: solicitors, Messrs Egan and Co., Essex street, Strand, London.
BARNARD, GEORGE, Portsea, Hampshire, coal merchant, Feb. 11, March 11: solicitors, Mr Clare, 5, Size lane, London, and Mr A. Low, Portsea.

BOYLE, WILLIAM EDWARD, Neath, Glamorganshire, plumber, Feb. 18, March 11: solicitors, Messrs Lake and Waldron, 33, Basinghall street, London, and Mr Hargreaves, Neath.

CASSIDY, GEORGE BERKELEY KIRKWOOD, 26, Bucklersbury, City, merchant, Feb. 8, March 11: solicitors, Messrs Buckley and Sanders, 14, Gray's inn square.

CHAMBERS, WILLIAM, Oxford, organ builder, Feb. 5, March 11: solicitors, Mr G. Rackstrew, Oxford, and Messrs Philpot and Son, 3, Southampton street, Bloomsbury, London.

COLLOS, ARTHUR, and THOMSON, ALFRED, late of Brighton, sugar manufacturers, Feb. 5, March 11: solicitor, Mr W. J. Penkivil, West street, Finsbury circus, London.

DAVIES, ROBERT, Mallwyd, Merionethshire, flannel manufacturer, Feb. 16, March 11: solicitors, Messrs Price and Bolton, 1, New square, Lincoln's inn, London, and Mr H. Davies, Machynlleth.

GEORGE, SAMUEL ROBERT, 55, London wall, City, victualler, Feb. 9, March 11: solicitor, Mr Billing, Cheapside.

HOLT, HENRY, High street, Peckham, bookseller, Feb. 4, March 11: solicitor, Mr Dover, 12, South square, Gray's inn.

SANDERS, JOHN, Manor place, King's road, Chelsea, baker, Feb. 8, March 11: solicitors, Messrs Harrison, 5, Walbrook.

SHARMAN, FREDERICK, Barge yard, Bucklersbury, City, shoe factor, Feb. 8, March 11: solicitor, Mr. Gale, 70, Basinghall street.

STONE, EDWARD JAMES, Belle Sauvage yard, Ludgate hill, maker of playing cards, Feb. 4, March 11: solicitors, Messrs Davidson and Coombs, 48, Bread street, Cheapside.

STEPHENSON, PETER, Manchester, mercer, Feb. 7, March 11: solicitors, Messrs R. M. and C. Baxter, Lincoln's inn fields, London, and Messrs Sale and Worthington, Manchester.

THOMPSON, JAMES, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, joiner, Feb. 18, March 11: solicitors, Messrs Crosby and Compton, 3, Church court, Old Jewry, London, and Mr J. T. Hoyle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

WILSON, RICHARD, Blyth Tile-sheds, Northumberland, manufacturer of bricks, Feb. 23, March 11: solicitors, Messrs Crosby and Compton, 3, Church court, Old Jewry, London, and Mr J. T. Hoyle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

WOOSTER, THOMAS, jun., late of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, then of Peckham Rye terrace, Surrey, but now of 4, Liverpool street, London, merchant, Feb. 11, March 11: solicitor, Mr Stephens, 20, Basinghall street.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

IRVINE, ADAM, Whiskyhouses, near Hawick, brewer, Feb. 2, March 2.

MORRIS, JAMES, Toward, Argyleshire, builder, Feb. 4, 25.

ROSS, ROBERT, Dalkeith, tailor, Feb. 4, 25.

DIVIDENDS.

Feb. 18, Littleford, High street, Marylebone, coach maker—Feb. 21, Smith, 23, Pump row, Old street road, St Luke's, timber merchant—Feb. 24, Morgan, Alford, Lincolnshire, grocer—Feb. 21, Jubber, Oxford, wine merchant—March 29, Halford and Co., Canterbury, bankers—March 1, Watts, formerly of Grimstone, but now of Great Massingham, Norfolk, grocer—Feb. 21, Root, Wardington, Oxfordshire, draper.

CERTIFICATES—FEB. 18.

Reuss, Liverpool, merchant—Seldon, late of the Old Trinity house, Water lane, London, wine and spirit merchant.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Foster and Robbins, 222, Albany road, Old Kent road, and 6, Park road, New Peckham, grocers, and Italian warehousemen—F. W. and E. Sparks, Norwich, oatmeal and great manufacturers—Fullen and Lowe, Wandsworth, Surrey, schoolmistresses—Binns and Clifford, Birmingham, land surveyors and lithographers—Salisbury and Co., Li-

verpool, brokers and general commission agents (so far as regards Salisbury)—Bousier and Parkinson, Bradford, Yorkshire, linen drapers—W. L., H., and E. Sargent, Birmingham, sword cutlers and gun makers (so far as regards H. Sargent)—C. Dawson, Mottram-in-Longdendale, Cheshire, and J. Dawson, Charlesworth, Derbyshire, slaters—Burnell and Bathe, Wells, Somersetshire, bakers—Wheeler and Co., 137, Cheapside, calico printers (so far as regards Wheeler)—J. and W. Robinson, Waterhead mill, Oldham, Lancashire, cotton spinners—E. and C. Reeves, Bath, statuary—Smith and Back, Hornsey road, Islington, nurserymen—Hannah and Hornby—Beaty and Pearson, Hatfield Peveril, Essex, railway contractors—Evans and Garratt, Friar gate, Derby, milliners—T. and M. A. Briscoe, Deritend, Warwickshire, plumbers—T. H., and G. Warre, 32, Fenchurch street, City (so far as regards H. Warre)—Norris and Sleddon, Liverpool, chain cable manufacturers—Smith and Co., Leeds and Stockport, Cheshire, German clock makers (so far as regards Shworer).

Tuesday, February 1.

INSOLVENTS.

LENNARD, JOHN SAMUEL, Norfolk arms, Half Moon crescent, White Conduit fields, victualler, Jan. 29.

HUNNYBUN, JAMES, Cambridge, ironmonger, Feb. 1.

BANKRUPTS.

BUBER, HENRY ADOLPHUS, Linfield, Sussex, maltster, Feb. 18, March 15: solicitors, Messrs Verral and Lewis, Lewes, Sussex, and Messrs Millard and Adams, Cordwainer's hall, London.

HAZELL, RICHARD, Ramsbury, Wiltshire, corn dealer, Feb. 11, March 15: solicitors, Mr Augustus Frederick Edwards, Aldbourn, Wiltshire, and Messrs Norton and Son, 10, New street, Bishopsgate, London.

HOLT, JOHN, Livesey, Lancashire, grocer, Feb. 17, March 15: solicitors, Messrs Milne and Co., Temple, London, and Messrs Neville and Co., Blackburn.

JOLLEY, JAMES, now or late of St Alban's place, Haymarket, and Pelham road, Brompton, builder and plumber, Feb. 8, March 15: solicitors, Messrs Allen and Nichols, 88, Queen street, Cheapside.

NICHOLLS, CHARLES, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, flannel merchant, Feb. 12, March 15: solicitors, Messrs Pownall and Cross, 9, Staple inn, London, and Mr William Henry Cooper, Shrewsbury.

OWEN, SAMUEL, Conway, Carnarvonshire, innkeeper, Feb. 15, March 15: solicitors, Messrs Abbott and Co., 8, New inn, Wyck street, Strand, London.

SPANTON, JOHN, Bermondsey street, cheesemonger, Feb. 8, March 15: solicitor, Mr Cattlin, 39, Ely place.

STRATTON, EDWARD, Longcot, Berkshire, corn dealer, Feb. 18, March 15: solicitor, Mr Charles James Barnes, Chipping Lamborne, Berkshire.

WATES, JOHN, Prince of Saxe Coburg, Old Kent road, Surrey, victualler, Feb. 8, March 15: solicitors, Messrs Lucas and Parkinson, 9, Argyle street, Regent street.

WELLS, JOHN DEANE, 13, George street, Mansion house, City, commission agent, Feb. 17, March 15: solicitor, Mr Heald, 19 and 20, Austin friars.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

BAIN, ROBERT SCOBIE, Stirling, grocer, Feb. 3 and 24.

BLACK, ARCHIBALD, Glasgow, merchant, Feb. 4 and 25.

JOHNSTON, CHARLES, late of Dundee, merchant, Feb. 7 and 28.

LAW, GEORGE, Morton, cattle dealer, and Edinburgh, banker, Feb. 8 and 28.

LEGGATE, JAMES, Wishlawtown, wood merchant, Feb. 7 and 28.

WISHART, JAMES, Glasgow, wine merchant, Feb. 4 and 25.

DIVIDENDS.

Feb. 24, Hawkes, Pall mall, silk mercer—Feb. 24, Hammon, 99, Great Portland street, Oxford street, plumber—Feb. 24, Gummer, late of Hart street, Mark lane, London, wine merchant—Feb. 24, Garnett, 29, Queen Ann street, Marylebone, chemist.

Feb. 24, T. and J. Keasley, Long lane and Wild's rents, Bermondsey, tanners—Feb. 24, Danni, jun., of the Talbot inn yard, Southwark, hop merchant—Feb. 22, Hall, Piccadilly, upholsterer—Feb. 24, Bromfield, 227, Blackfriars road, brush manufacturer—Feb. 24, Dorrington, Percival street, Middlesex, printer—Feb. 26, Saunders and Co., Basinghall street, London, and of Bradford, Wiltshire, woollen manufacturers—Feb. 26, Walton, Kingsland road, Shoreditch, timber merchant—Feb. 26, Green, Great Winchester street, London, merchant—April 16, Lampugh, Great Driffeld, Yorkshire, grocer—Feb. 24, Dyson, Sheffield, plater on steel—March 3, Clarke, Leamington priors, Warwickshire, builder—Feb. 23, Johnson, Leeds, fruiterer—Feb. 24, Coad, Huddersfield, dealer—Feb. 23, Butler and Parkes, Birmingham, wine merchants—Feb. 23, Baldwin, Edgbaston, Warwickshire, wire drawer—Feb. 22, J. and B. Whalley, Leeds, wool merchants—Feb. 25, North, Huddersfield, fancy cloth manufacturer—March 1, Shaw, Ulverston, Lancashire, slate merchant.

CERTIFICATES—FEB. 22.

Potts, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, grocer—Bourne, Liverpool, cotton broker—Wootton, Birmingham, refiner and metal dealer—Bate, Compton, Staffordshire, timber dealer—Brown, Birmingham, victualler—Sannders, jun., 133, Upper Thames street, London, fish factor—Saunders, Kingston-upon-Hull, merchant—Rushbury, Fitzroy place, Southwark bridge road, late of 15, Fish street hill, London, money scrivener—Horend, Paradise street, Lambeth, builder—Fretwell, Leeds, colonial merchant—Jerningham, now or late of 6, Henrietta street, Covent garden, banker—Taylor, Monk Wearmouth shore, Durham, ship builder.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Keats and Hayward, Cannon brewery, Cumberland place, King's road, Chelsea, brewers—W. C. and R. Robins, Coventry, silk mercers—Watt and Co., Liverpool, general merchants (so far as regards Oliphant)—Lee and Armitage, Manchester, commission agents—Collings and Johnson, 64, High street, Hoxton, hearth rug makers—Hudson and Guest, 2, Onslow place, Brompton, surgeons—Hazard and Hodgson, 11, Cannon street, London, wine and spirit merchants—Fitch and Seaman, 53, Gloucester place, Portman square, schoolmistresses—Crosby and Gregg, Chester, slaters—Robinson and Thompson, Manchester, Kendal butter dealers—Dumbrell and Embling, Brighton, plumbers—Mullings and Painter, Birmingham, pearl button manufacturers—Eley and Hewitt, Tooley street, Southwark, commission agents—J. and J. S. Pidecock, Watford, Hertfordshire, surgeons—Carter and Thorpe, 28, Ludgate hill, London, glovers—Earle and Wandless, Kingston-upon-Hull, stone masons—Heath and Co., 31, Old Jewry, merchants (so far as regards Furse)—Ludlow and Watts, Cambridge, auctioneers—C. and E. Horsnaill, Hollingbourne, Kent, paper manufacturers—M. and T. Bath, Bromley, Kent, blacksmiths—J. and E. Brock, 10, Sackville street, St James's, tailors—Johnson and Dobson—J. and J. Peart, Porkington and York, corn dealers—Beecroft and Co., Kirkstall forge, Leeds, Yorkshire, ironmasters (so far as regards Butler).

BRITISH FUNDS.

	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	89	89½	89	89	88½	88½
Ditto for Account	89½	89½	89½	89½	89	89
3 per cents. Reduced	89½	89½	89½	89½	89½	89½
3½ per cents. Reduced	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	99
New 3½ per cent.	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½
Long Annuities	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½
Bank Stock	168	167½	168½	—	167½	167½
India Stock	248	248	248½	247½	247½	—
Exchequer Bills	17 pm	17 pm	19 pm	17 pm	17 pm	17 pm
India Bonds, 3 per cent.	10 pm	12 pm	—	9 pm	10 pm	11 pm

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	—	Mexican	29½
Belgian	102½	Peruvian	—
Brazilian	65	Portuguese 5 per cents	55½
Buenos Ayres	19½	Ditto 3 per cents	20
Columbian	21½	Russian	115½
Danish	81½	Spanish Active	24½
Dutch 2½ per cents	51½	Ditto Passive	54
Ditto 5 per cents	101½	Ditto Deferred	19½

SHARES.

Railways—		London and Brighton	36½
Birmingham and Derby	58	London and Croydon Trunk ..	19
Birmingham and Gloucester ..	64	London and Greenwich	6½
Blackwall	11½	Ditto New	18
Bristol and Exeter	35	Manchester and Birmingham ..	28
Cheltenham and Gt. Western ..	15	Manchester and Leeds	76
Eastern Counties	9	Midland Counties	82
Edinburgh and Glasgow	—	Ditto Quarter Shares	26
Great North of England	—	North Midland	72
Great Western	86	Ditto New	35
Ditto New	60½	South Eastern and Dover	26
Ditto Fifths	9½	South Western	50
London and Birmingham	170	Ditto New	10½
Ditto Quarter Shares	35		

MARKETS.

GRAIN, MARK LANE, Jan. 31.

The supplies of English wheat continue small, but the inferior quality and condition prevent its meeting a free sale. There is, however, more business doing in foreign free wheat lately; prices both to millers and purchasers are fully maintained for all descriptions.

A slow sale for flour, at late prices.

For fine barley the demand is good, at fully late prices; and the second qualities of barley, and also beans and peas, are without alteration in value.

A fair supply of oats, and fully equal to the demand. There is a good sale for the best descriptions of English oats, but a dull trade for the low qualities of Irish, and prices are without alteration.

	s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.
Wheat, Red New	51	64	Malt, Ordinary	50	53	Beans, Old	34	40
Fine	64	70	Pale	58	64	Harrow	34	42
White	52	64	Peas, Hog	30	32	Oats, Feed	22	24
Fine	64	70	Maple	32	34	Fine	25	28
Rye	32	36	Boilers	35	38	Poland	23	27
Barley	24	28	Beans, Ticks	29	32	Potato	23	27
Malting	32	35						

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR JAN. 28.

	61s.	5d.		62s.	7d.		24s.	8d.
Wheat	61s.	5d.	Wheat	62s.	7d.	Wheat	24s.	8d.
Barley	28	10	Barley	29	8	Barley	18	4
Oats	20	1	Oats	20	8	Oats	16	9
Rye	43	0	Rye	41	10	Rye	8	0
Beans	33	9	Beans	35	11	Beans	16	9
Peas	33	10	Peas	36	3	Peas	15	6

SEEDS.

There is some inclination to purchase cloverseed, but prices cannot be quoted higher; the finest samples worth 90s.

Linseed, English, sowing	54s.	to 59s.	per qr.	Coriander	10s. to 16s. per cwt.
Baltic, ditto	—	—	—	Old	16 .. 18
Ditto, crushing	48	.. 54	—	Canary, new	80 .. 90
Mediterranean, Odessa	50	.. 54	—	Old	— .. —
Hempseed, small	40	.. 45	—	Extra	95 .. 100
Large	48	.. 50	—	Caraway, old	50 .. 52
Clover, English, red	70	.. 90 per cwt.	—	New	48 .. 52
Ditto, white	—	—	—	Mustard, brown, new	10 .. 14 pr bush.
Flemish, red	70	.. 90	—	White	9 .. 13
Ditto, white	—	—	—	Trefoil	16 .. 28
New Hamburg, red	65	.. 85	—	Rye grass, English	30 .. 42
Ditto, white	—	—	—	Scotch	18 .. 40
Old Hamburg, red	60	.. 80	—	Tares, winter	— .. per qr.
Ditto, white	—	—	—	New	6 .. 7 6d. pr bl.
French, red	75	.. 95	—	Large, foreign	— .. —
Ditto, white	—	—	—	Rapeseed, English, new	36l. .. 40l. pr last

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Jan. 31.

The inactive and unsatisfactory state of business which has so long prevailed in our market still continues. The demand for butter is no better, the sales are but trifling, and prices quite nominal. A short supply of Friesland butter upholds the price of that article to 114s. to 116s. per cwt. Bacon is in limited request, and sells slowly at 1s. per cwt. less than our last quotations, landed and on board. Bale and tierce middles find but few buyers, and are rather lower in price. No new feature in lard. Mess pork is offered at lower rates on board; nothing of moment doing landed.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Jan. 31.

There has been a brisk inquiry for the superior descriptions, which are scarce. The other qualities being in greater supply, do not meet ready buyers.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Jan. 31.

The supply of beasts to-day was very moderate, and the attendance of buyers numerous, but the beef trade was not so brisk as might have been expected. There was a scanty number of sheep brought forward, while the demand for them was very ready at

an advance of fully 2d. per 8lbs., the best old Downs producing without difficulty 5s. per 8lbs. With calves we were scantily supplied, and the inquiry for them was firm at a rise of from 2d. to 4d. per 8lbs. Most kinds of pigs went off freely at late rates. Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef	3s. 6d. to 4s. 8d.	Veal	5s. 0d. to 6s. 0d.
Mutton	3 8 .. 5 0	Pork	4 6 .. 5 2

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday	359	1,910	112	214
Monday	2,716	20,710	53	238

NEWGATE and LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Jan. 31.

	Per 8lbs. by the carcass.		Per 8lbs. by the carcass.
Inferior Beef	3s. 0d. to 3s. 2d.	Inferior Mutton	3s. 6d. to 3s. 8d.
Middling ditto	3 2 .. 3 4	Middling ditto	3 10 .. 4 2
Prime large ditto	3 4 .. 3 6	Prime ditto	4 4 .. 4 6
Prime small ditto	3 6 .. 3 8	Veal	5 0 .. 6 0
Large Pork	4 2 .. 4 6	Small Pork	4 8 .. 5 2

POTATOES, SOUTHWARK, Jan. 31.

The annexed arrivals have been received at the water side during the past week: viz., from Scotland, 980 tons; Yorkshire, 610; Jersey and Guernsey, 920; Devons, 445; Kent and Essex, 180; total, 3135 tons. Owing to the mildness of weather, and the above abundant supply, sales are heavy for inferior samples.

York Reds	per ton 70s. to 80s.	Wisbeach	per ton 45s. to 50s.
Scotch	60 .. 70	Jersey and Guernsey Blues	55 .. 60
Irish	— .. 50	Jersey Whites	40 .. 45
Devons	65 .. 70	Kent, Essex, and Suffolk Whites	55 .. 65

WOOL, Jan. 31.

The demand this week has been very much on a par with that of the last fortnight or three weeks; scarcely an average business has been done, but prices are firmly maintained.

Down teggs	1s. 0 1/2d. to 1s. 1 1/2d.	Half-bred wethers	0s. 11d. to 1s. 0d.
Half-bred hogs	1 1/4 .. 1 2	Leicester hogs	0 10 1/2 .. 1 0
Down ewes and weth.	0 10 1/2 .. 0 11 1/2	Leicester wethers	0 9 1/2 .. 0 10 1/2

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Jan. 29.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Coarse Meadow Hay	80s. to 85s.	New Clover Hay	80s. to 105s.
New ditto	65 .. 90	Old ditto	100 .. 120
Useful old ditto	86 .. 90	Oat Straw	38 .. 40
Fine Upland and Rye Grass	92 .. 95	Wheat Straw	40 .. 42

COAL EXCHANGE, Jan. 31.

Hetton's, 23s.; Lambton's, 23s.; B. Hetton's, 23s. 9d. 40 fresh ships.

GROCERIES, TUESDAY, Feb. 1.

TEA.—The biddings were languid to-day at the public sale, the trade operating with caution in both black and green sorts, and the prices accepted were 4d per lb. lower for both Congou and Twankay, and 1d per lb. for Pouchong; of 16,000 packages. That passed auction, only about 7000 were sold; Congou at 1s. 10. to 2s. 4d. for common to fine; Company's Congou at 1s. 10 1/2d. per lb.

COFFEE.—There has been a good demand for all clean sorts of West India coffee since Tuesday last, and very full rates have been paid; unclean qualities have maintained the previous value, and have been in fair request. This afternoon middling qualities of Jamaica were in fair request privately at 115s. to 120s. per cwt.; of good ordinary sorts some parcels were sold rather above the rates of the auctions held last week.

SUGAR.—The British plantation market has been firm, but only a limited business has been done at former prices. About 300 hhds have been sold. The public sales have consisted of 6037 bags Mauritius and 2507 bags Bengal, which went off heavily at prices 1s. to 2s. lower. The stock of sugar in Great Britain is computed at 50,075 tons, and in the principal foreign ports of Europe 67,210 tons. The stocks of last year were rather lower.

TALLOW.—The accounts from Russia state that prices were high in the interior. For present wants the trade are steady buyers at 48s. to 48s. 6d. For delivery, P.Y.C. is 49s. per cwt.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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POLYTECHNIC JOURNAL for February, 1842. Vol. VI. No. 2. Contents:—The Palmipedes—Metropolitan Shops—Impressions and Recollections of Finland, concluded—The New French Light—The Poniatowsky Collection of Gems—The Alpaca—Notes on Russia—Chinese Literature—London Electrical Society, &c. N.B. To the Subscribers of the Polytechnic Journal. The reprint of the January Number of 1841 will be ready in the course of the month.—Office, 13, Wellington Street North.

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It was resolved, "That this Association pledges itself, by all legal and constitutional means, to carry out the following objects: viz., An extension of the franchise to every man twenty-one years of age, untainted by crime, who has resided six months in an electoral district; equal electoral districts; and vote by ballot."

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THE NEXT HALF-YEARLY ELECTION OF CHILDREN will take place on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1842.

All Applications for Admission, with the necessary Certificates, must be forwarded to the Secretary on or before the 27th day of February next. Printed Forms of Petition may be obtained on application at the School any Tuesday or Thursday, between 10 and 1 o'clock. Children are eligible from 7 until 11 years of age.

By Order of the GENERAL COURT held 24th November, 1841, any MINISTER, preaching on behalf of this Charity and making a Collection for its benefit, shall, for every Guinea so collected, be entitled to as many Votes as there are Children to be elected, at the Election next ensuing. An opportunity is thus afforded to relieve the Widow by providing for the fatherless Children of their congregations. Persons becoming Subscribers on the day of Election are entitled to vote immediately.

The ANNUAL SERMON for this Charity will be preached on WEDNESDAY EVENING, the 6th day of APRIL next, at Albion Chapel, Moorgate, by the Rev. JAMES SHERMAN. Service to commence at Half-past Six o'clock precisely.

JOSEPH SOUL, Secretary.

Orphan Working School, Jan. 27, 1842.

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